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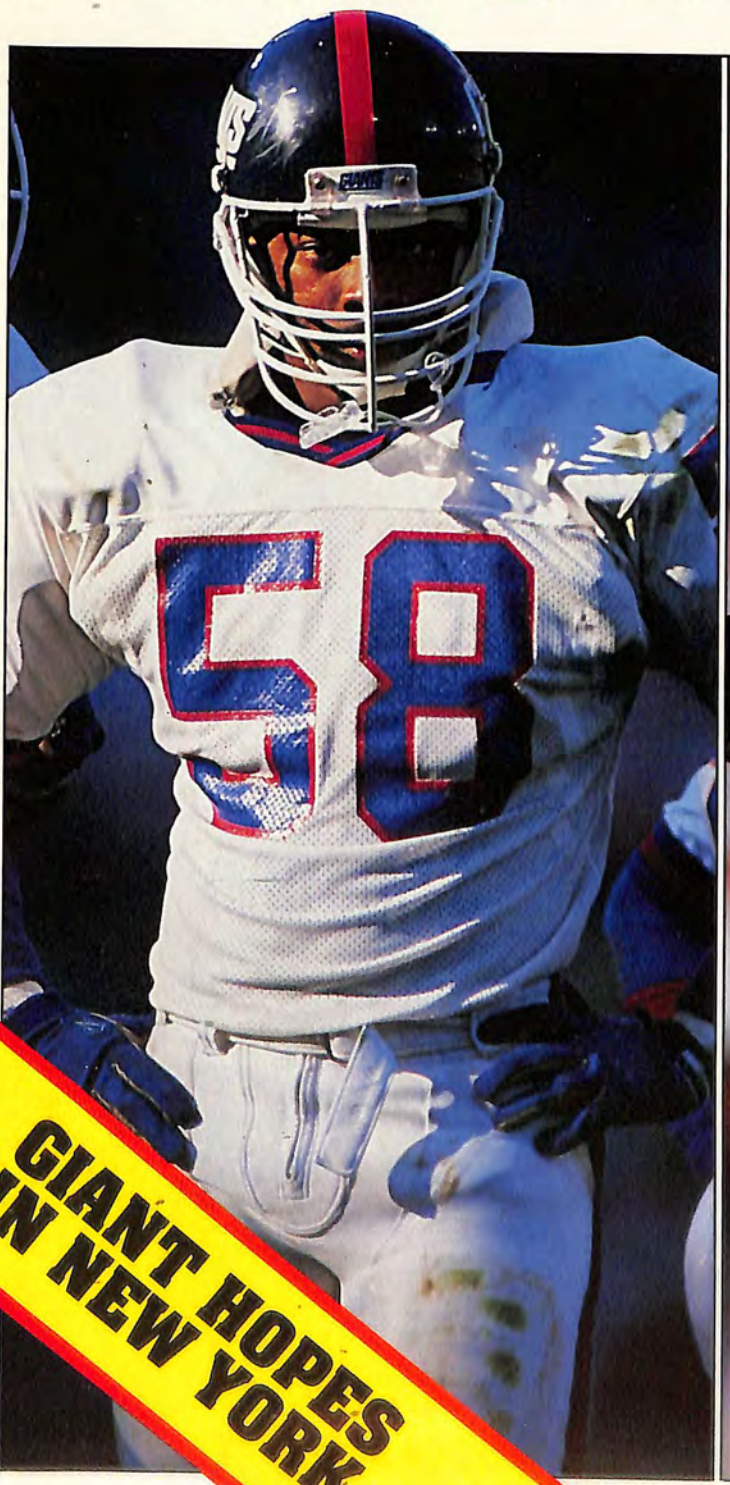

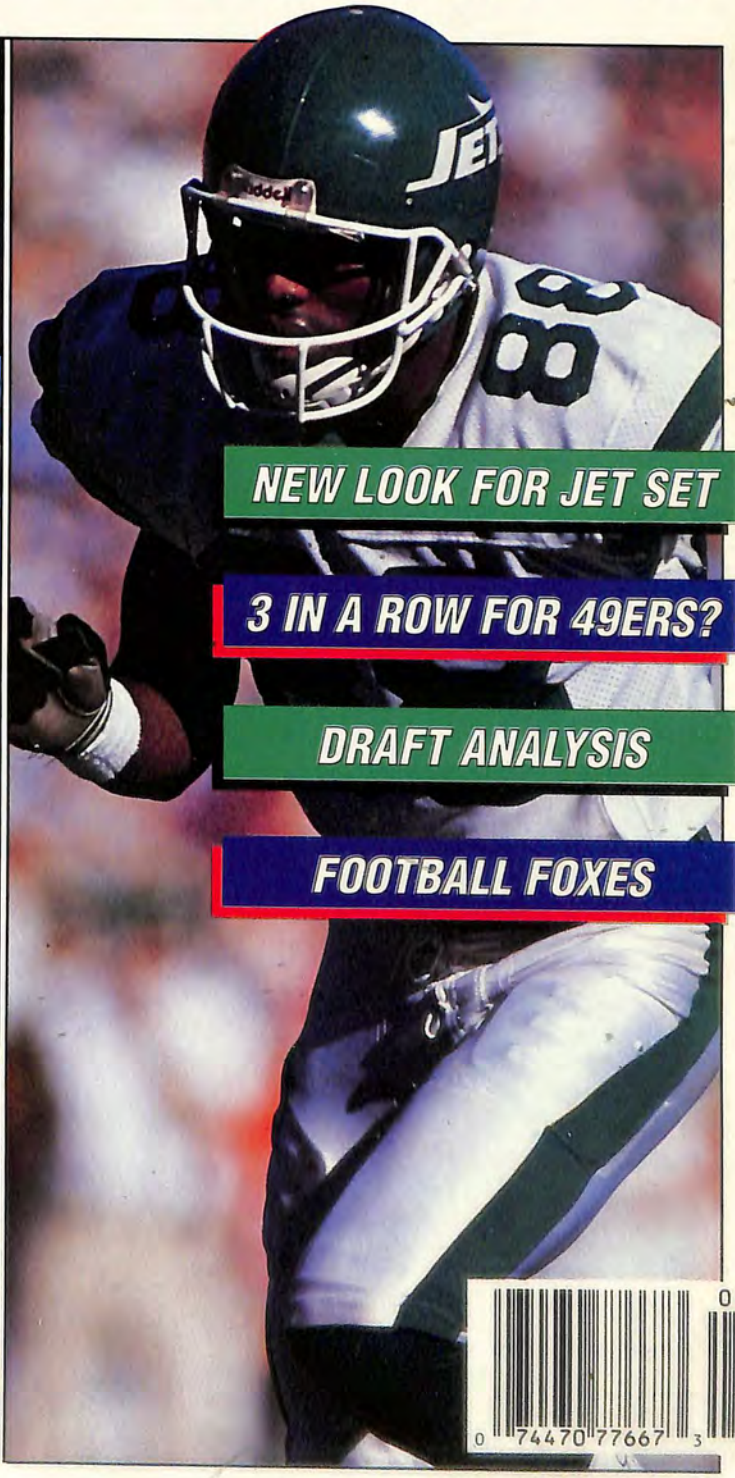

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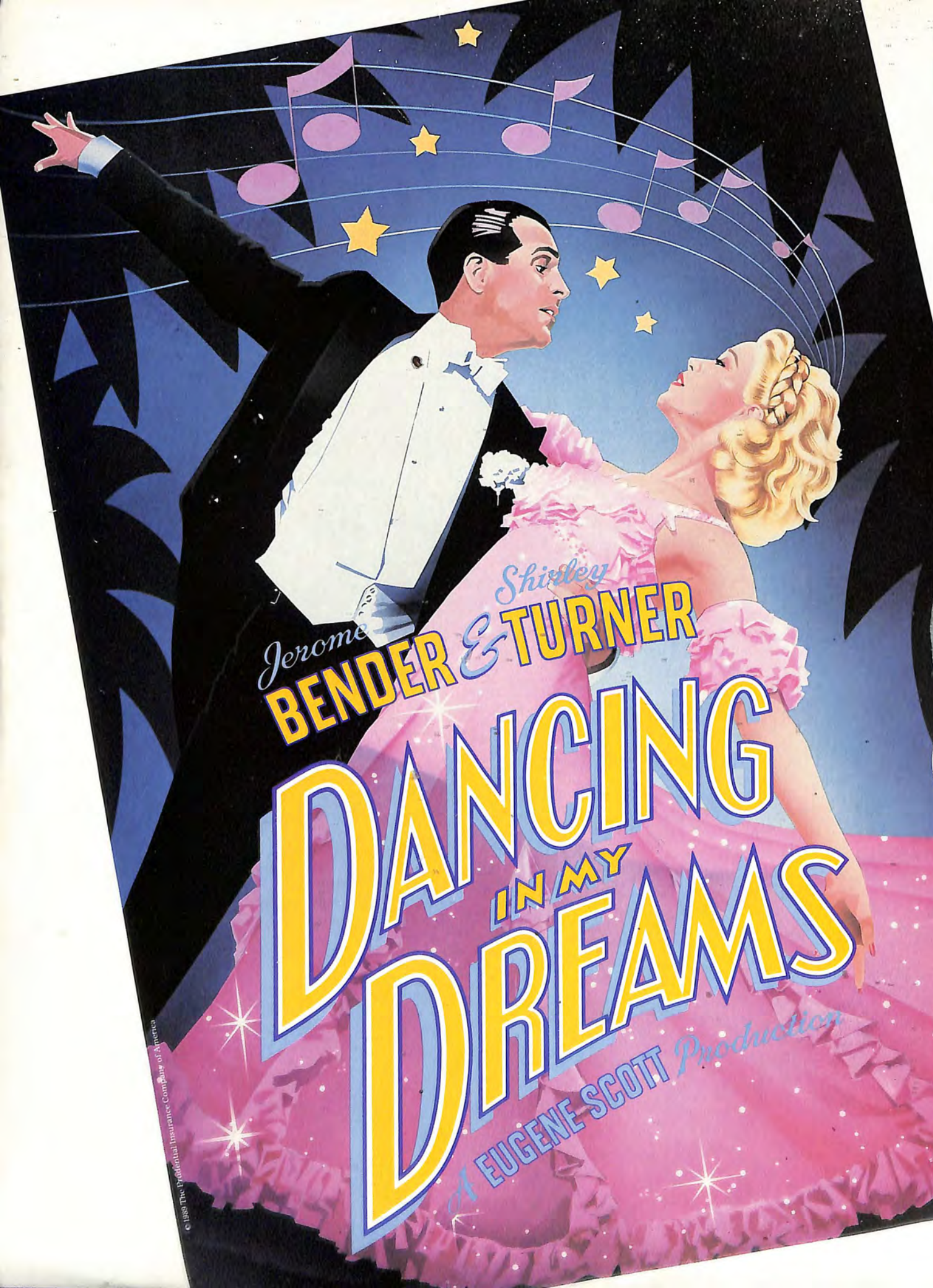
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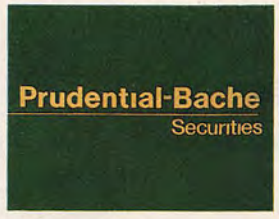

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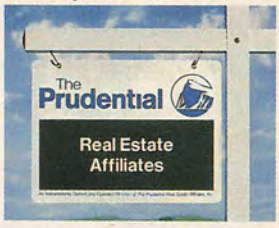

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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Can anyone beat the 49ers? That has to be the question as the team of the '80s tries to become the team of the ages. With virtually everyone back, the Niners' biggest obstacle for a "3-peat" could be their own complacency.

After 30 years, the NFL has a new head man. Pete Rozelle began his NFL tenure in 1961 and will certainly go down as one of the most respected sports administrators in history. The changing of the guard is profiled beginning on page 8.

Who are the best players at each position in the NFL? John Delcos tells in a new Lindy's feature beginning on page 88.

Let me say a sincere "thank you" to all the readers who have made Lindy's Pro Football Annual such an outstanding success. Lindy's tries to give you — the fans — the best of everything: in-depth stories, stats, draft information, features and action-packed photography. I think you will agree that this, our 4th edition, is our best issue yet.

Finally, a sincere apology to all Packer fans; as many of you know, we goofed on last year's roster/draft page.

May your favorite team win the Super Bowl!

Sincerely,

J. Lindy Davis Jr.

J. Lindy Davis, Jr.
Publisher

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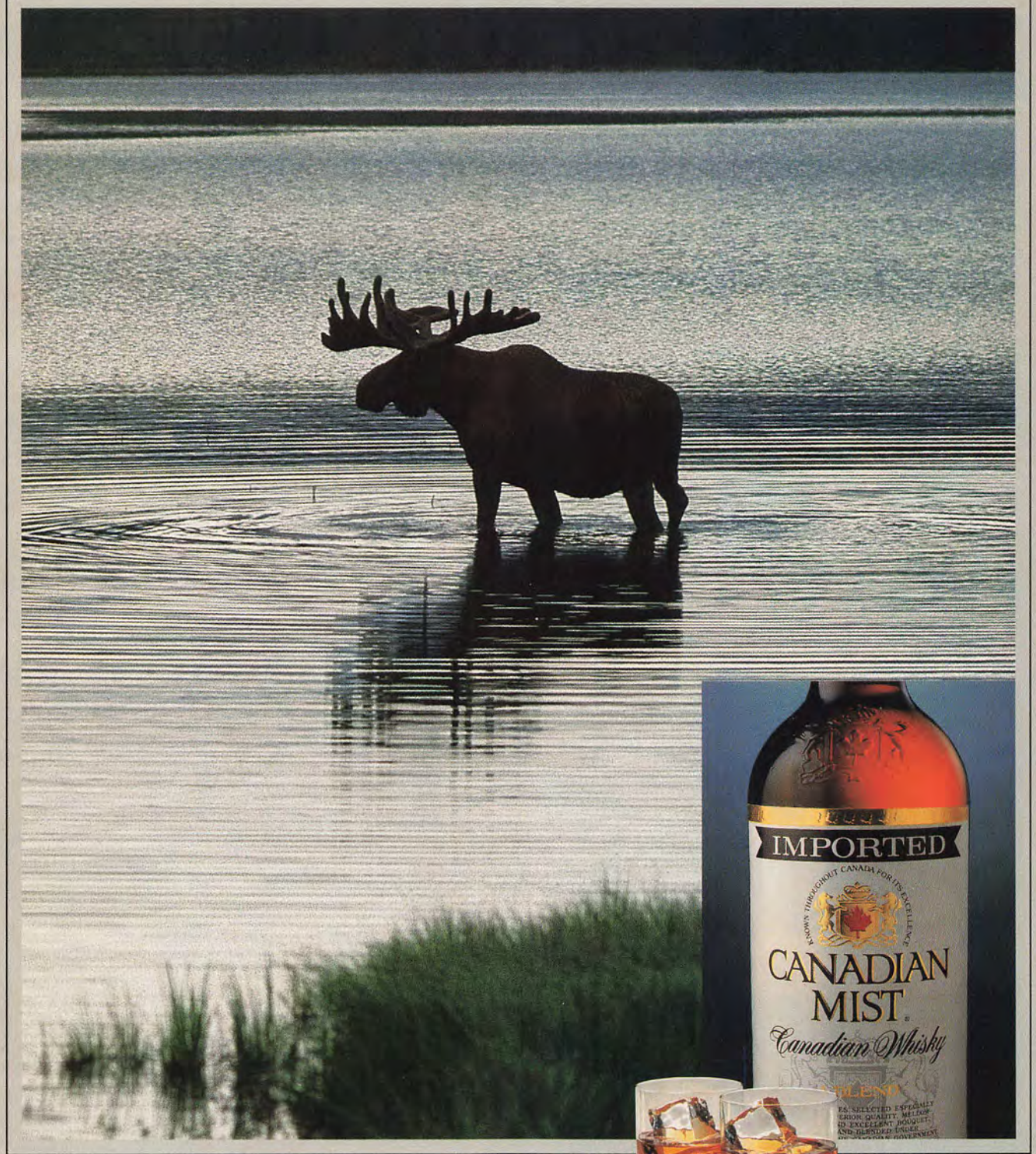
CANADA AT ITS BEST



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ANOTHER HEISMAN WINNER TURNS PRO

Ware Wears Well

BY GENE DUFFEY

"Hey, Coach, they're in a 5-4 defense."

DOUG HOLLIMAN

Andre Ware sat in an equipment room in the bowels of Rice Stadium, surrounded, by choice, by his offensive line from the University of Houston.

The 30-minute television show that would reveal the winner of the Heisman Trophy seemed endless to Ware. Surely, he dispatched the Rice Owls that afternoon quicker than this.

From the moment that the president of the Downtown Athletic Club named Ware the winner, another game began.

Would Ware return to play his senior season at Houston? He said that day that he would. Times change.

The wait officially ended on March 16. Less than a week before the deadline, Ware announced that he would enter this year's NFL draft. Ware seemed slightly vague in declaring his intentions, speaking of pro football as the next great challenge for him.

"I had to look deep into my heart and discover what is real important to me at this time," he said at the press conference. "I'm a proud and only child of a single working mother. She has done such a great job of providing for me that I think it's time I returned all the favors."

Andre and his mother Joyce, who worked at the post office, maintained an unusual relationship. Andre described it as more like brother and sister. "We can talk about anything," he said.

His father died of pneumonia when Andre was only 7. "Even from age 7 he was mature," recalled Joyce. "He'd tell me, 'Mom, I'm going to be a quarterback some day.' I believed him."

Ware came out of nowhere to win the Heisman. He started only five games the year before, including the Aloha Bowl loss to Washington State.

He never talked about the Heisman until late in the season.

"About two weeks ago I was seeing polls coming out, and I was first or second," he said shortly after being named the recipient. "Hey, there's a chance *we* can win it."

Ware then said he planned to return to Houston for his senior season. At the time, that's exactly what he had in mind. "My personality is not going to change," he promised. "I guarantee it."

It didn't. But winning the Heisman and the myriad of other awards opened up new worlds for Andre Ware. He flew to New York and Los Angeles, to Washington and Atlanta. He met President Bush and Bob Hope, Michael Jordan and Loni Anderson. His "friend" Warren Moon took him to the Super Bowl in New Orleans. Maybe Ware discovered he fit comfortably in the fast lane.

Success didn't change Andre Ware, but it certainly changed the way people perceived him. The metropolis of Houston began to shrink around the quarterback. He longed to be old Andre again, a college student who played football rather well. "I can't go anywhere and not be noticed," he said.

Andre Wares show up seldom on college campuses.

"The only question we had was how long it would take him," said former Houston Coach Jack Pardee, who played against and coached a few good quarterbacks such as Sonny Jurgensen, Norm Van Brocklin, Roman Gabriel, Joe Theismann and Jim Kelly.

"I think he's every bit as good as Kelly was with the (Houston) Gamblers," said Pardee.

"We're talking about a rare individual, like a Barry Sanders or Herschel Walker," said John Jenkins, Houston's offensive coordinator who succeeded Pardee as coach. "They need to move on."

His teammates didn't begrudge Ware's early departure.

"It's a dream of every college athlete to make it in the pros, in the NFL," said Chuck Weatherspoon, the relentless running back. "It was Andre's turn."

"I expected him to go, looking at the financial situation," said defensive tackle Tray Hooper. "When you've got a chance to go for a million dollars with a year to go in school, you can always come back to school."

Actually, Ware needs only 18 hours to finish his degree in business. He planned to complete the work in the spring.

"That's a done deal," said Jenkins. "He's not off chasing a rainbow."

Jenkins figured Ware would fare better in the NFL's supplemental draft than in the regular draft. Then he wouldn't be competing with the rush of juniors coming out this year. But the league did away with the supplemental, narrowing Ware's choices: go now or stay and play. "I really didn't expect that," said Ware.

Until the announcement, Ware gave every impression that he would be playing for the Cougars in the fall. In truth, he didn't decide what he wanted to do until the final week. He kept his college options open.

He signed up for a normal class load

Another record going down.

ALLSPORT

for the spring semester, making no attempt to graduate early. Even if he had taken 18 hours in the spring and the maximum number of hours the first session of summer school, it would have left him short of credits.

Ware participated in the off-season conditioning program, the running and the weight lifting. He attended the meetings, a major component of Cougar method football.

"I haven't had a lot of time to think about (the decision)," he said then.

He reported for spring practice March 5, though he did create a stir among the media in attendance by arriving an hour late. He wanted to make sure of a few details in his insurance policy before taking the field. "Anytime I show up for practice, I'm making myself a better player," reasoned Ware.

He missed most of the weekend activities at school from recruiting to spring ball. He was off somewhere receiving one award after another.

The Monday of his final week, he endured a two-hour practice in the rain. The day before he made it official, he practiced again. "It wasn't my best practice because my mind wasn't in it," said Ware.

"I totally understand his decision," said offensive tackle Jason Jessup. "Deep down, I was hoping he would stay."

The magnitude of what Ware accomplished finally struck him the day he walked into the lobby of the Downtown Athletic Club in New York and checked out the Heisman prominently displayed there.

"It puts chills in me," said Ware. "You look at the names on that thing: Bo Jackson, Herschel Walker, Marcus Allen, Charles White. Those are guys you grew up idolizing. To be mentioned in the same conversation, I can't come to grips with it. Maybe years from now, when football's over, I will. Earl (Campbell) said it may be a while before you start to think of yourself in that company."

Ware took time to study the portraits of all of the former winners in the Heisman Room on the 13th floor. The ones of Campbell, the 1977 winner from Texas, and Roger Staubach, the 1963 winner from Navy who went on to quarterback the Dallas Cowboys, interested him most.

Seeing his own Heisman made the biggest impact.

"To actually see my nameplate on the trophy, that made it really special," he said. "It's actually mine. I'm going to take it home and share it with the guys on the team. Their names are on it, too. You just can't see them."

All season, Ware passed along the credit to his teammates during interviews. "This is a big family," he said. "I'm not all for Andre. The guys know it. That's why we all get along so well."

Ware, like many college athletes, wore a gold chain around his neck. Instead of carrying his name and uniform number, Ware's simply read "UH."

"A lot of people and organizations don't know how to handle success," said Pardee. "I've seen great teams in pro football torn apart over Pro Bowl voting. For him to make it a team award takes a special individual."

❑ *continued on page 240.*

STEPHEN DUNN / ALLSPORT

New Commissioner: PAUL TAGLIABUE

BY VITO STELLINO

When Paul Tagliabue was a basketball player at Georgetown University in the late 1950s and early 1960s, he wore No. 33.

That number has since been retired by the school.

"And the fact that it also belonged to Patrick Ewing had nothing to do with it," Tagliabue said with a smile.

Tagliabue is used to being overshadowed on and off the basketball floor.

For close to two decades, he toiled in obscurity as a lawyer working closely with the National Football League. Although he was adviser and confidant of Commissioner Pete Rozelle, he was content to stay in the background.

That all suddenly changed last October when he was a surprise choice to replace Rozelle as the commissioner.

When Tagliabue got the nod, he was something of a symbol. A group of 11 owners — dubbed the New Guard — were upset that they were left out of the selection process and were asked to simply ratify the choice of Jim Finks, the general manager of the New Orleans Saints, as the new commissioner.

The New Guard owners blocked the election of Finks by voting against him as a bloc and then threw their support to Tagliabue. Once the old guard owners saw they couldn't get Finks elected, they decided to take Tagliabue because they didn't want to go outside the league for a commissioner.

Although his name was a new one to the average fan despite his years of behind-the-scenes work, it hasn't taken him long to make his own mark on the league.

There were some doubts about whether Tagliabue, who was accustomed to being a staff man, could step into a leadership role.

He has been erasing those doubts.

Despite his years of working hand-in-hand with Rozelle, he has had no problems in going his own way in everything from the schedule to the drug program.

"I've been trying to clean the slate in a lot of ways," he said. "A lot of things have been done very well by Pete over the years. Everyone's style is different. At the same time, whatever I've learned from him that I think fits with my style, I'll use. I think the great thing about Pete is that he persuaded people rather than forced people (to do things). You can't really force people and hold a group together over the long run. My own way would include a lot of things I've learned from him."

Tagliabue continued in his praise of Rozelle by adding, "You can't say too much about a person whose performance for 30 years is really the gold standard for sports commissioners. In professional sports, people are going to think of Pete Rozelle when they think of the great founders and leaders of this particular business."

Having said that, Tagliabue leaves no doubt that he'll be more than just a Rozelle clone.

"I'm trying to bring in fresh ideas," he said.

Even though he is a lawyer who is used to working with dry legal documents, his fresh ideas have included getting away from his desk and meeting with present and former players.

One of the first things he did was meet with the players from four different teams: the Pittsburgh Steelers, New York Giants, Philadelphia Eagles and Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Rozelle had grown distant from the players in recent years.

"I told them right at the outset that I was an athlete myself and I wanted to hear what they said about the NFL," he said.

One of his major concerns is that the league has been without a collective bargaining agreement since the 1987 players' strike. The two sides seem to be farther apart than ever because the NFL Players Association claims it isn't a union and is pursuing a legal strategy against the owners.

Paul Tagliabue hopes that his long history of being a sports fan will help him in his new job as commissioner. RICK STEWART / ALLSPORT

Tagliabue hopes that in off-the-record talks he can find a way to break the long stalemate between the owners and the players.

"I've been talking to both sides. We're making some progress, but it's very slow," he said.

Meanwhile, he is busy implementing other new ideas. Another of his new approaches was to establish an advisory council of former players including Roger Staubach, Archie Griffin and Reggie Williams.

It's another way of trying to open more lines of communication within the league. He even had the coaches meet with a group of five officials at the owners' meetings in March so the two groups who are often at odds could share a dialogue.

Tagliabue also changed the concept of the league schedule when he negotiated the new four-year television contracts. They provide for each team to get a bye in 1990 and 1991 and two byes in 1992 and 1993.

That means the 16-game schedules will be spread over 17 weeks the first two years and 18 weeks the second two years. He also added two more wild card teams to the playoffs, boosting the number of playoff teams from 10 to 12. It's the first change in the schedule since 1978 when the league went from 14 to 16 regular-season games and boosted the number of playoff teams from 8 to 10.

"We are very fortunate that most surveys rank NFL football as America's favorite spectator sport," Tagliabue said. "This new schedule format allows us to expand our share of the annual sports calendar. Television revenue was an obvious factor, but we also are sensitive to possible overexposure of our sport. Both were weighed in the decision."

For football junkies, the 18-week schedule will mean a cornucopia of TV games. Three games on the networks on Sunday afternoon added to cable games on Sunday and Monday nights for 18 straight weeks adds up to 90 games a year. Plus two on Thanksgiving and a few more on Saturdays late in the season.

Although there are concerns about over-exposure, Tagliabue is counting on the fact that most fans can't seem to get enough football on television.

He also likes the idea of fitting byes into the schedule. "The open weekends will allow for greater scheduling flexibility, ease the player injury factor and reduce team travel burdens," he said.

In the process, Tagliabue got more than $30 million per year per team in TV revenue, which will mean that all teams will be operating in the black. It will solve the problems of the owners who bought their teams in recent years and are saddled with heavy debt service payments.

Another project Tagliabue is working on is expanding the league's American Bowl series of international games. There will be exhibition games in Tokyo, London, Montreal and Germany this fall. It's the first time the NFL has played exhibition games in four different foreign countries in the same year.

It also didn't take long for Tagliabue to get a chance to show how he can handle problems.

He was barely on the job for a month when he suspended Dexter Manley of the Washington Redskins for life for drug use although Manley can apply for reinstatement after one year.

At his first Super Bowl press conference last January, Tagliabue also showed he is willing to address controversial issues head-on.

After a Washington television station reported that the league covered up positive cocaine tests for three white quarterbacks without naming them, Tagliabue said, "It (the report) really in many ways is a journalist Molotov cocktail. It takes two of the most volatile ingredients in American life, racism and drugs,and it mixes them up in an irresponsible way, based upon innuendo, distortion and an absence of fact and just throws them against the wall."

A few weeks later, though, controversial Dr. Forest Tennant, who has headed the drug program, quietly submitted his resignation. Among other things, Tennant had said that counseling isn't much help to serious drug addicts. Even Tagliabue said he was "somewhat mystified" by those comments.

Although Tagliabue publicly defended the program, he knew it was time to make some changes in implementing it, starting with Tennant's departure.

Tagliabue also toughened the league's program against steroids. In many ways, steroids are a bigger problem for the league than cocaine and other street drugs. Steroids are perceived as giving a player a competitive advantage. The street drugs don't.

"This (steroids) is a performance-enhancing drug and it puts pressure on other players to use it. Street drugs don't do that," he said.

Tagliabue tackled another problem when he changed the league's eligibility rules for college players. He decided to allow players into the league three years after they graduate from high school as long as they renounce their remaining years of college eligibility. That means juniors and sophomores who were redshirted for a year are now eligible.

Even though Tagliabue has been working 12-hour days while dealing with various issues, he still likes to think the job is going to fun.

"It'll be fun to continue what I think is a great sports tradition. The sport has become a form of civic passion that has become special in America. It'd be fun to continue to deal with this great tradition. Do I think it's going to be a bed of roses? No. I think it would be naive optimism to think there would be no problems. There will be tough problems, tough negotiations, but I still think it can be fun," he said.

It helps that Tagliabue has a long history of being a sports fan. This is more than a job to him.

Growing up in New Jersey, he was a New York Giants' fan when the Cleveland Browns were their big rivals.

"We cheered for Charley Conerly and I guess we booed Otto Graham in the early 1950s. So I've been interested in sports whether it's the NFL or major league baseball. I was a Dodger fan and a basketball fan," he said.

If his first few months in office are any indication, it's likely he'll be the commissioner to lead the NFL into the 21st century.

He liked to play sports, too. He is even quick to demonstrate in his office how he became a good rebounder in basketball.

Standing against a wall, swinging his elbows from side so side so they hit the wall with a loud thwack, he said, "I used to practice this. I had a cousin who played for Lafayette High in Brooklyn. He told me to learn how to protect the ball and he told me to hold the ball and swing my elbows."

Lamar Alexander, the former governor of Tennessee who is now president of the University of Tennessee, remembers visiting Tagliabue's home at Thanksgiving time when they were both in law school.

"His father, Mr. Tags, told me about Paul going into the basement and banging his elbows against the concrete walls to toughen him for the playgrounds. Here was a guy who was street-smart. I just always assumed he'd succeed at something," he said.

After Tagliabue's junior year at St. Michael's High School in Union City, the basketball recruiters were coming after him. He also was the state high jump champion.

"I was recognized as a very good offensive rebounder," he said. The school also had another player named Tom Heinsohn, who went on to NBA fame with the Boston Celtics.

From his father, who had a construction business, he learned the two-hand set shot and the underhand free throw.

"My dad was a basketball player in the '20s, a great fan of Nat Holman's. He was a barnstormer. He'd get on a train and travel through New England and play at small resorts. My father was not a philosophical guy. He was hard-working and set very high standards for everybody. He was not big on leisure time," he said.

Tagliabue seemed to live up to those standards. He was captain of the basketball team at Georgetown in 1961-62, president of the senior class, a Rhodes Scholar finalist, and dean's list student. He then received the Root-Tilden scholarship to New York University Law School where he was an editor of the Law Review.

After getting his law degree in 1965, he returned to Washington to clerk in the U.S. Claims Court and to work as a lawyer in the Defense Department's internal security division. He joined the Washington law firm of Covington and Burling, which handles the NFL legal work, in 1969.

Tagliabue got involved in that account and eventually became the firm's top lawyer in handling the NFL. Along the way, he became an expert in antitrust law and became close to Rozelle.

Gary Roberts, a professor at Tulane University Law School who who once worked with Tagliabue at Covington and Burling, said, "The NFL is a difficult client because each owner wants to see the top dog on every little problem."

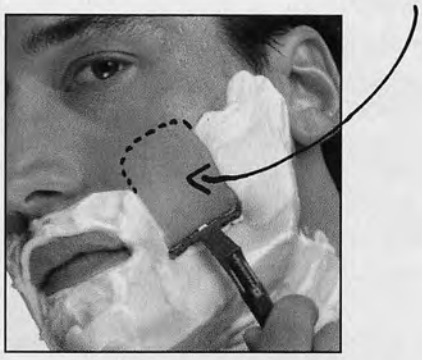
James McKay, who was one of Tagliabue's mentors at the law firm, said, "He's done very well in handling the interests of 28 very, very independent types."

When the NFL teams started looking for Rozelle's successor, Tagliabue was one of the leading candidates along with Finks.

"I've worked with everybody in the league and I feel I have a very good relationship with all 28 clubs," he said.

Tagliabue was given a five-year contract, but he's only 48 and it's obvious he has ambitions of being commissioner for more than one term.

If his first few months in office are any indication, it's likely he'll be the commissioner to lead the NFL into the 21st century.❑



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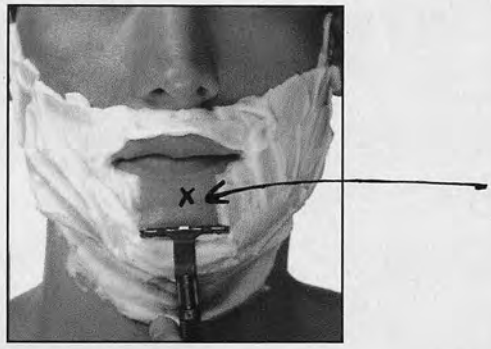

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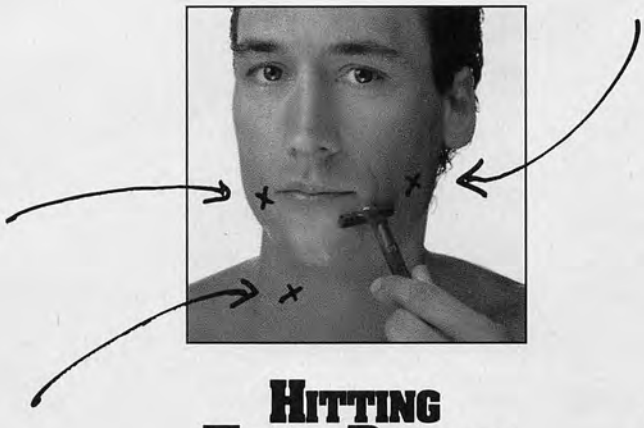

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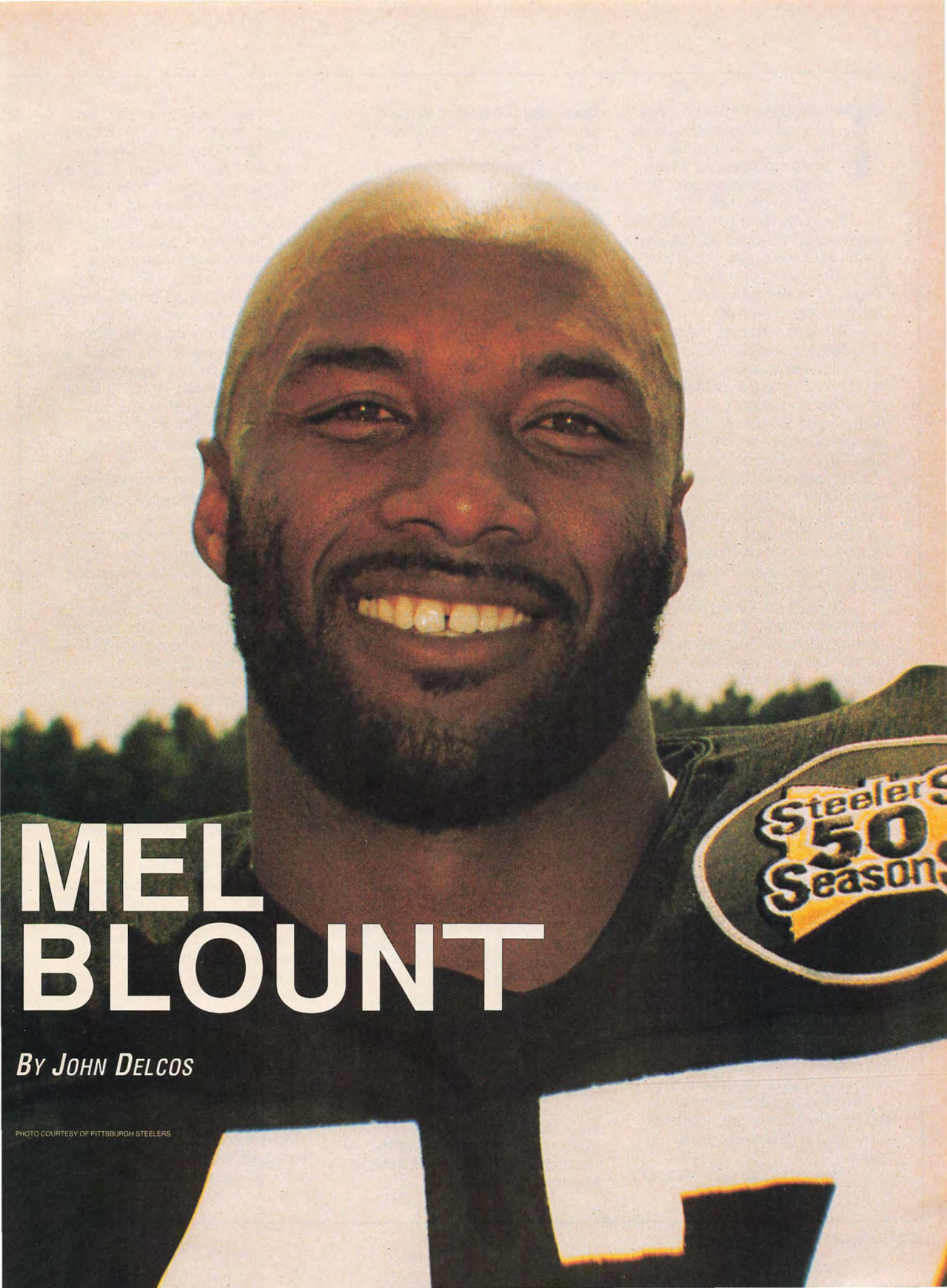

MEL BLOUNT

By John Delcos

PHOTO COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH STEELERS

The memory no longer elicits a frown, but Mel Blount recalls when it forced him to break out in a cold sweat. It was the kind of sweat you got after waking up from a nightmare.

Clammy. Uncomfortable. Sticky.

It was November 1971, and Blount , a second-year cornerback with the Pittsburgh Steelers,was lining up in the Orange Bowl against future Hall of Famer Paul Warfield, one of the quickest and most fluid receivers of his era.

This was going to be no contest.

Warfield broke off the line and gave his trademark stutter-step and hip fake. Blount bit on the move; and there was a sickening, nauseating feeling in the pit of his stomach when Warfield broke past him, and he saw Bob Griese's tight spiral fly over his head.

The walk back to the bench seemed longer than the 86 yards Warfield ran on the play for a touchdown, one of three the Miami Dolphins scored that day. The walk to the bench seemed longer than the quiet flight back to Pittsburgh.

The Miami game wasn't a new experience for Blount that year. Receivers with far less talent than Warfield had been having their way with him since he replaced the injured John Rowser in the fifth game of the 1970 season. Meetings and film sessions were unbearable. Blount thought a lot about that on the plane, dreading the idea of the coaches tearing down his play while watching the films. It always looked worse in slow motion.

Blount thought about a lot of things that night. "Yeah, I thought about quitting. I thought a whole lot about it."

Something made him hang on and ignore the boos. That something was in his roots.

After the season, Blount returned to his home near Vidalia, Ga, where he grew up in a family of nine children. He reflected on his stellar college career at small Southern University in Baton Rouge, La, where he was the team's Most Valuable Player in his junior and senior seasons, and drafted from in the third round in 1970; he thought about his goals; he thought about his new life in Pittsburgh and his old one in Georgia.

He knew he didn't want to return to Georgia, at least then — that would be taking a step back. He knew where he belonged.

Pittsburgh finished 6-8 in 1971; but Blount sensed the franchise was about to turn things around and he wanted to be a part of its future.

"As I had time to sort things out, I realized the football I played at Southern hadn't given me the background I needed for pro football," said Blount, who was named to All-America teams in 1969 by *The Sporting News* and the pro scouts.

"I didn't want to be second to anyone," said Blount, establishing a philosophy which would carry him through his career and into his present job as Director of Player Relations for the National Football League.

"In college, the game was so much less complex but more physical. It was played on natural ability and very little else."

There's more thinking in professional football, and Blount, who played 14 seasons with the Steelers, entered the Hall of Fame in 1989 with a reputation of being a cerebral player, even though he starred as an enforcer on one of history's most physical and aggressive teams.

Blount spent as much time thinking and studying during the off-season of 1971 as he did running and lifting weights.

"I didn't want to be second to anyone," said Blount, establishing a philosophy which would carry him through his career and into his present job as Director of Player Relations for the National Football League.

"I wanted to set the standards for my position. I had to realize every mistake I made was a lesson. Instead of thinking about how many times I had been beaten, I decided to think of how many lessons I had learned."

Blount reported to training camp with a renewed attitude but pulled a groin muscle and played sparingly in the pre-season. When the season started, Blount found an ally in secondary coach Bud Carson, who convinced head coach Chuck Noll that Blount should be the starting right cornerback.

"I knew Mel was an outstanding prospect," said Carson, now the head coach at Cleveland. "He had great ability and speed. He showed all the physical attributes to be as good as anyone in the league."

The physical package was never a question. At 6'3" and 205 lbs., Blount was big for a cornerback by 1970 NFL standards. He had 4.5-second sprinters' speed (over 40 yards) — averaging 29.7 yards a kick return in 1970 and 25 yards in his career — and hit like a linebacker.

Blount was superb athlete. When he was inducted into the Hall of Fame, the story of him beating Olympic hurdler Renaldo Nehemiah in a standing vertical jump resurfaced. The catch is, Blount wore wing-tipped shoes and a three-piece suit at the time.

What was missing, Carson gave him: confidence from the coaching staff.

Playing with resolve, and knowing he wouldn't be pulled for a mistake, Blount wasn't beaten for a touchdown the entire season.

"I owe it all to Bud Carson," Blount recalled. "He gave me something no one else on the staff ever did — he helped me believe in myself."

Inner confidence was felt throughout the organization in 1972, a season in which the Steelers turned the corner as a franchise in frigid Three Rivers Stadium in late December.

Pick it up late in the fourth quarter: Oakland quarterback Ken Stabler scrambled down the left sideline, eluding Blount, and dove into the end zone for a touchdown to give the Raiders a 7-6 lead.

Then, if one play could be considered the birth of a dynasty, it happened moments later. Pittsburgh quarterback Terry Bradshaw, who was enshrined in the Hall of Fame with Blount, scrambled out of the pocket and threw a long desperation pass to Frenchy Fuqua. Raiders safety Jack Tatum, instead of wrapping up the play, tried to level Fuqua with a vicious forearm shiver as the ball arrived.

The ball deflected to Franco Harris, a Hall of Famer this summer, who caught it off his shoelaces and ran it in for the touchdown.

The Steelers lost the following week to Miami in the AFC Championship, but the "Immaculate Reception" put the franchise on the brink of greatness and ignited one of

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sports' bitterest rivalries. It would be a rivalry that would be a dominating backdrop in Blount's career.

Oakland routed Pittsburgh in the 1973 divisional playoffs but lost the AFC Championship at Miami.

In 1974, Pittsburgh rolled over Oakland, 24-13, on its way to its first Super Bowl. It was another milestone season, which ironically involved a brief split between Blount and Carson.

It happened in the AFC Championship after Cliff Branch burned Blount for a 42-yard touchdown, and Carson pulled his prize student.

A humiliated Blount wasn't interested in lessons this time; he was angry and wanted to tell anyone who would listen.

"I really don't think a smart coach would do something like that in a championship game," Blount said bitterly at the time. "The touchdown pass to Branch was only the third I had given up all season, and the other two came in one game against Atlanta. Taking me out of the game was the worst thing he could've done."

Blount seethed for two weeks, and his mouth shifted into overdrive the week before facing Minnesota in Super Bowl IX. The reporters couldn't keep up with him. Blount wouldn't ease up on Carson; he said several AFC quarterbacks were superior to the Vikings' Fran Tarkenton; and he challenged Minnesota to throw against him.

"I hope I get a lot of action," Blount said. "I went the whole season without much action because they didn't throw to my side that much."

In retrospect, pulling Blount was one of Carson's better decisions. The Steelers blitzed through the AFC in 1974, but the incident helped the meanness in that team surface. Some called it arrogance, but the message was clear: the Steelers weren't going to lose.

As expected, the Carson-Blount feud disappeared in the wake of Blount's goal-line interception which sealed the Steelers' 16-6 victory in the Super Bowl.

Blount reported to training camp in the summer of 1975 with a clean slate, and a clean-shaven head. Blount, who was going bald anyway, wanted to keep his head cool. After all, few places get hot and muggy like Latrobe, Pa in July.

However, that's too simplistic an explanation. Steeler lore had Blount shaving his dome to enhance his mean image. Indeed, the baldness made him look sinister; he looked like a James Bond villain.

Sinister. Evil. Villain. Those were all terms used to describe Blount's appearance, and his style of play. Ditto for Mean Joe Greene and Jack Lambert, for the Raiders' Tatum and George Atkinson. It was good copy, but the adjectives took a serious tone in 1976.

In the season opener at Oakland, Stabler rallied the Raiders from a 28-14 deficit in the final six minutes to win 31-28. The thrilling finish was overshadowed by Atkinson knocking out Steelers receiver Lynn Swann with a forearm to the back of the head.

Enter a new adjective: "criminal element." That's what Noll called Atkinson and the Raiders.

Atkinson sued for slander and, at the trial in July 1977, Noll conceded that several of his players were guilty of actions worthy of the "criminal" tag. When asked for names, Blount's was mentioned.

Noll said the trial drove a wedge between him and his players. Indeed, Blount's relationship with his coach remained cool for several years.

Blount didn't need the notoriety of the trial or gimmicks to be intimidating.

"When you create a cornerback, the mold is Mel Blount," said linebacker Jack Ham, a Hall of Fame enshrinee in 1988. "I played in a lot of Pro Bowls, but I never saw a cornerback like him. He was the most incredible athlete I ever saw. With Mel, you could take one receiver and just write him off. He could handle anybody in the league."

Former Steeler tackle Jon Kolb said Blount, who played in-your-face man-to-man, was naturally intimidating. He could own a receiver without saying a word. "A lot of cornerbacks want to be intimidators," Kolb said. "They go through all kinds of things to be intimidating. Mel could just walk out there, look down on the guy and then run side by side with him. That would be intimidating."

1975, Blount's fourth year as a starter, was the best of his career as he intercepted 11 passes and was named Defensive Player-of-the-Year. Despite the team's success, Blount was overshadowed by his teammates — just count the Hall of Famers — and said the award was personally gratifying.

"I knew I was getting local publicity," Blount recalled. "But this is a national award, and it makes you feel good about being recognized all over the country. I felt I played just as well the previous two or three seasons as I did that year. But to most people in those years, I was just another ball player."

He would never be considered that way again. Blount, who intercepted at least one pass a season, finished with a Steeler-high 57, which is seventh on the NFL's all-time list. He also recovered 13 fumbles and scored 4 touchdowns — two each on fumble and interception returns. In the seven seasons between 1975 and 1981, Blount played in five Pro Bowls and was All-AFC four times.

However, Blount's impact on the game transcended statistics. His excellence prompted one of pro football's most important rule changes in 1978 when the NFL's competition committee outlawed Blount's bump-and-run tactics, making it illegal to make contact with a receiver five yards beyond the line-of-scrimmage.

Noll was furious.

"They ganged up on us and are trying to win the championship through legislation," he said. "But, whatever the rules, you have to adjust to them and play with them."

It's a tribute to Blount's skills that he was able to adapt.

Blount, who used to ride receivers downfield and drive them off their routes, now played back. He got in his hit at the line, then dropped behind the receiver. He appeared to be beaten, but used his speed to close in for the interception or deflection.

It was a matter of pride to Blount that he could excel in both circumstances. Pride was always a powerful motivator.

When Blount was voted into the Hall of Fame, he didn't recall the Super Bowls, or even the Warfield touchdowns. He remembered the practices with cornerback Donnie Shell, and receivers Swann and John Stallworth, all of whom should join Blount in Canton.

Blount remembers joking with Shell during the passing drills. "Just watch, no one on my side is catching a pass." And, it would happen that way. By gametime, Swann and Stallworth knew that no matter who each faced, the opposition wasn't as good as Blount.

Blount lived for those practices. His pride was on the line, just as it was on that muggy day in the Orange Bowl.

"If the scales were balanced, there was nobody I couldn't cover," said Blount. "That's what motivated me, drove me to be as good as I was. I was in front of 50,000 people in the stands and millions on television. I didn't want to be embarrassed."

It rarely happened after Warfield. And, there aren't any more cold sweats.❑

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A LOOK AROUND THE NFL

MONSTER T.V. PACKAGE HIGHLIGHTS YEAR

BY BARRY WILNER

Art Modell was wearing such a big smile you would have thought his Cleveland Browns had won the Super Bowl. Modell had about 32 million reasons to smile, as did every other NFL owner. He and Commissioner Paul Tagliabue had put together a monster television package that made all others — even baseball's $1 billion agreement with CBS — seem tame.

"We were seeking the maximum we could get from the marketplace while providing more of our product than ever," Modell said. "That's just what we've done, we've come up with packages that make everybody happy."

Well, not everybody. The TV folks who didn't get in on the deal couldn't be thrilled with the prospect of more NFL games on the rival outlets.

One of Pete Rozelle's major strengths as commissioner was his ability to wring every last cent from the networks. Even when Rozelle was dealing with a weakened sports television market in 1987, he came out looking great by holding the contracts with the networks to three years, and by getting cable involved with ESPN's half-season packages.

"Commissioner Tagliabue had a tough act to follow," Modell admitted, "he's certainly done a fantastic job."

The four-year television contracts are the centerpiece of Tagliabue's masterful first year in office. The NFL has added Turner Broadcasting to its stable, giving TNT games for the first half of the season, mostly on Sunday nights. And it kept ESPN happy with a similar package to the one it had.

Then Tagliabue came up with the 17 weeks to play 16 games idea, which will be converted to 18 weeks in 1991 and '92. That gives the league more exposure with an extra weekend of regular-season play.

The playoffs also were extended, adding another wild-card team in each conference. The two division winners with the best records in the NFC and AFC will get a bye the first weekend of the playoffs, while four games are played: the third division winner against the wild-card qualifier with the worst record; the other two wild-card teams against each other.

And ABC gets in on the playoff action, televising two of those four playoff games.

Tagliabue and his television committee also broke the Super Bowl network rotation by awarding the 1992 game to CBS and the '93 contest to NBC. That way, CBS can use the Super Bowl to promote its upcoming Winter Olympics coverage while NBC gets the game in Phoenix, better to host advertisers, rather than Minneapolis.

Finally, what about the fourth Super Bowl in the package? No one has rights to it yet.

The NFL says it will award that game to the network which is having the least success under the new contract. But if all three networks show a significant profit and higher ratings, what's to stop the league from auctioning off the biggest sports draw on television?

Expansion and realignment definitely are in the NFL's future. While nobody at the league is saying when, a good bet would be that expansion plans will be announced within weeks of agreement on a collective bargaining pact with the players.

The leading contenders for expansion teams? Try Baltimore and St. Louis, once they get new, preferably football-only, stadiums. The NFL would like to go back to the cities scorned by the Colts and Cardinals, respectively, in the 1980s.

When Al Davis finally settles the Raiders somewhere, the city that doesn't have them would be front-and-center for an expansion franchise. Of course, Los Angeles would need a new stadium or vastly modernized Coliseum to have a shot.

Both Jacksonville and Memphis have the interest, the facilities and the location. But the newest contender for an expansion team, Charlotte, has piqued the NFL's interest.

The Charlotte Hornets have been a major success story in the NBA in an area always dominated by college basketball. The NFL believes it would be just as successful there.

The league eventually will add four teams to bring the total to 32. Then it is likely to realign, although the networks will make sure that certain teams — Giants and Jets, Cowboys and Oilers, two Los Angeles teams, Washington and Baltimore — are not in the same conference.

Assuming that St. Louis, Baltimore, Los Angeles (with the Raiders in Oakland) and Jacksonville are the expansion teams, the NFL could do a lot worse than the following lineup, with teams playing only within its conference until the playoffs.

For good measure, make it an 18-game schedule, allowing each club in a four-team division to play its division rivals twice, plus one game against every other team in the conference.

NFC East: **Giants, Eagles, Redskins, Cowboys**

NFC South: **Dolphins, Jacksonville, Bucs, Falcons**

❑ *continued on page 208.*

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NEW YORK GIANTS

ANOTHER CONTENDER IN THE BIG APPLE

BY BARRY WILNER

The scene was reminiscent of a wake. Then again, it was a wake.

The New York Giants' Super Bowl hopes were being buried.

They had disappeared — suddenly, shockingly — on the Giants Stadium field moments earlier. Flipper Anderson had beaten Mark Collins to the end zone, taken Jim Everett's touchdown pass for a 19-13 overtime victory and not stopped running until he reached the Los Angeles Rams' locker room.

In that room the celebrations were raucous. In the Giants' quarters, the silence was as deafening as the crowd's cheers had been an hour earlier when New York had taken a 13-7 lead.

Many of the Giants were hiding from the media, a not uncommon practice. The few who had much to say spoke of the death of the championship dream.

"To come this far and be this close to winning — having the chance to win — it's very disappointing and frustrating," center Bart Oates said. "It's a shame."

Collins, who, it turned out, was playing with a broken bone in his foot, complained about a questionable interference call just before the touchdown pass. Then he realized his folly.

"One play or one call doesn't ruin a season," he said. "It just can end it."

Certainly, that playoff overtime didn't erase a terrific season for the Giants. It merely spoiled the ending.

After the Giants went 10-6 and missed the playoffs in 1988 with a fifth-place schedule, after they lost workhorse tailback Joe Morris to a broken leg in preseason, after their uncertainty about the offensive line that kept being jumbled, after All-Pro tight end Mark Bavaro became useless with a knee injury and reliable place–kicker Raul Allegre went down, who could have expected the team to win the tough NFC East and have the second-best record in the league?

Not Bill Parcells.

"There were a lot of things we had questions about," the coach said. "You never go into a season without them, but there were more questions than normal. "Luckily, we got the right kind of answers to a lot of those questions."

Parcells lists the offensive line and

secondary as areas where the Giants "learned a lot" in 1989.

"We cut our sacks from 60 to 46, we had a more consistent effort from our line," he said.

The Giants seem to have found their blocking unit for the future, and it is massive. Look for Oates, a solid center, eventually to give way to 1989 No. 1 draft pick Brian Williams (6' 4", 295). Tackles Doug Riesenberg (6' 5", 275) and John Elliott (6' 7", 305), guards Eric Moore (6' 5", 290) and Bob Kratch (6' 3", 286) will form a monstrous wall.

Just who will be operating behind that group, dashing through the holes they open, is one of Parcells' biggest questions this season.

Morris doesn't seem to fit into his plans and Ottis Anderson, who was spectacular last year with 1,023 yards rushing and 14 touchdowns, is in his 12th season. How much of a load can he carry? How much battering can he still take? Does he have another 325 carries in him?

Parcells hopes he doesn't need Anderson that often. He'd prefer to move Lewis Tillman into the job and spot Anderson in short-yardage and goal-line situations.Tillman showed signs of the kind of power and cutting ability necessary for the pros. But he doesn't have a lot of speed. He doesn't need to.

The breakaway threat is Dave Meggett, who played in the Pro Bowl as a rookie.

"We've never had a back like Dave since I've been here," quarterback Phil Simms, an 11-year veteran, said. "He can break any play, he's a threat to score every time he touches the ball.

"You have to find as many ways as you can to use someone like that."

Meggett rushed for only 117 yards, but he caught 34 passes for a 15.6 average and four TDs. His sensational run in the snow with a flare pass against Denver provided the winning score in a critical game last season.

Meggett also was dangerous on kick returns, averaging 12.7 yards per punt runback— he returned every opposition punt — and 21.4 on kickoffs.

Parcells isn't about to change his philosophy with the ball, however. He wants a possession runner who can grind out tough yards, so Anderson won't be forgotten.

Simms' struggles in big games (his worst performances came in the losses to the Eagles, Rams and 49ers during the season, and the Rams in the playoffs) won't be forgotten, either. Parcells admitted just after the Giants' elimination that backup Jeff Hostetler would get "serious consideration" in challenging for Simms' job.

The Giants beat the Vikings and Cardinals with Hostetler while Simms recovered from a knee injury. But Hostetler hasn't displayed the passing skills a healthy, unhar-

ried Simms has shown.

Simms must improve on his touchdown-interception ratio, however. He hit for 14 scores and was picked off an equal number of times."That's not very good," the ever-combative QB said. "That's not a championship level or a level I expect to be at."

Parcells also must consider a more varied attack if Bavaro can't beat the nagging injuries that slowed him in 1988 and '89. The guy is the best blocking and one of the three best receiving tight ends in football. New York's blocking schemes, with two and sometimes three tight ends, depend on a healthy Bavaro. Simms depends on Bavaro on third down and for the over-the-middle patterns that are a staple of the Giants' offense.

Opening up the attack also would make New York's upgraded receiving corps more dangerous. Odessa Turner led the Giants with only 38 receptions and Stephen "Touchdown Maker" Baker had the best average, 19.1, but only 13 receptions.

The best pass-catcher is Lionel Manuel. Mark Ingram, if he learns to hold onto the ball, has game-breaking potential.

Simms, for one, would love to play the riverboat gambler a little more often.

"What quarterback doesn't want to throw it around?" he asked. "But any good quarterback knows you don't just put it up for the sake of passing. You do it inside a game plan that is designed to take advantage of a defense's weaknesses."

Some defenses have very few weaknesses. The Giants shored up most of theirs in 1989.

One major worry was in the secondary. But the Giants got a superb year from Collins, who has emerged as one of the league's finest cornerbacks. They got a surprisingly strong season from free safety Terry Kinard after Parcells had considered dropping Kinard from the lineup.

Perry Williams played well at the other corner and strong safety was the address for a rookie find, Myron Guyton, an eighth-round selection from Eastern Kentucky.

When asked to name the most pleasant developments of '89, Parcells put Meggett and Guyton at the top of his list.

In previous years, even during their run to the championship in 1986, the Giants' secondary was considered toastable. Now, it is considered more than passable, although still prone to such costly mistakes as the interference call in the playoff game.

The pass rush could be the trouble spot this time. The Giants simply can't be sure of anyone but Leonard Marshall up front.

Marshall comes off a renaissance season in which he had 9.5 sacks and was a force down the stretch when the Giants took charge in the division. But he must get more help up front, particularly from whoever is at the other end.

Eric Dorsey missed the season and might be the key to the line. NT Erik Howard was strong against the run but provides little surge in passing situations. DE John Washington is better suited to being a fill-in.

As always, New York's defense will be built around its impressive linebackers.

People began writing off Lawrence Taylor when he was suspended for four games in 1988 for violating the NFL's drug policy. That was a mistake.

Taylor comes off yet another All-Pro, All-World, All-Universe season. Although he did have one mini-slump in '89, it was caused by a collection of injuries that wore him down.

Versatile Dave Meggett can have a Giant impact. STEPHEN DUNN / ALLSPORT

"When you talk about great players, you start with LT," Marshall said. "No one has the impact on a game he has. No one dominates the way LT does."

Now in his 10th season, Taylor still draws double-teaming from most teams when he rushes the passer. Because the Giants don't have

the weapons up front, the sack burden falls heavily on Taylor, who had 15 of the team's 39 sacks last year.

"We sometimes rely too much on LT," inside linebacker Pepper Johnson said. "That's one reason he has to play hurt — he's taking on just about everybody on the field every game."

Taking them on and taking them down. Only the Rams, who use Jackie Slater, an excellent tackle, have been able to put one man on Taylor with any luck. Others use a lineman and a back, or a tight end and a back, or a tight end and a lineman.

"Sometimes," Taylor said, "it seems like everybody is trying to get at me."

Sometimes, everybody is.

Taylor would be helped immensely by Carl Banks returning to All-Pro form on the other side. Banks had a good 1989 but not nearly at the level he played in '86 and '87.

On a team so committed to aggressive, attacking defense, the outside LBs are the key. Taylor always does his part, but Banks has been too inconsistent recently.

Inside, the Giants are in great shape with Johnson and Gary Reasons. A big falloff was expected at inside LB when perennial Pro Bowl performer Harry Carson retired. It didn't happen because Johnson, involved in a bitter preseason holdout, signed and had his best season.

Carl Banks is an unsung hero in the Giant defense.

MIKE POWELL / ALLSPORT

It didn't happen because Reasons, once on the trading block, was consistently strong against the run and even tough in pass coverage. It didn't happen because free agent Steve DeOssie was solid before getting hurt.

With Johnie Cooks also available, the Giants have a skilled, deep linebacking contingent. It just can't be asked to carry the entire pass-rushing load.

Not surprisingly, for a team so often in contention, the kicking game is first-rate. Allegre can hit from the 50 and, when healthy, is consistent from closer. His main problem has been a string of injuries that don't heal quickly. Even when Allegre went down last year, the Giants got a 9-for-12 field goal performance from Bjorn Nittmo.

Sean Landeta ranks with the top punters in the league. He averaged 43.1 yards, with a net of 37.8, as New York's special teams excelled. The Giants allowed a stingy 8.1 yards per punt return, mainly because of Landeta's high, booming kicks.

Also first-rate is the management team of Parcells and GM George Young which retooled the roster last season and still went 12-4. Parcells knows how to use his personnel to get the maximum from it. He knows how to motivate each player, and he is an excellent strategic coach.

Among his favorite moves is going for a first down on fourth down between the 40s. That shows confidence.

Among his strengths is in-game adjustment. Possibly the most telling statistic in the team's 1989 season was scoring in the third quarter: New York had 100 points, opponents 38. Five of the Giants' victories were sparked by third-quarter turnarounds.

Young, meanwhile, has never had a bad draft and several have been great. He knows just what kind of players Parcells wants or needs, and he finds them.

The Giants also have had inordinate success on middle and late rounds of the draft, with such coups as Guyton and Meggett last year, Bavaro, Turner and Riesenberg in other grab bags.

Still, this is not a team that can afford any complacency or a repeat of injuries to key people. Sure, only the 49ers had a better record last season. But it would have taken only one reversed result — a loss to the Redskins — to have put the Giants on the outside of the playoff picture in '89.

And that surely would have called for a wake.❑

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
2	**Allegre**, Raul	K	5-10	167	8	Texas
24	**Anderson**, Ottis	RB	6-2	225	12	Miami (FL)
85	**Baker**, Stephen	WR	5-8	160	4	Fresno State
58	**Banks**, Carl	LB	6-4	235	8	Michigan State
89	**Bavaro**, Mark	TE	6-4	245	6	Notre Dame
44	**Carthon**, Maurice	RB	6-1	225	6	Arkansas State
25	**Collins**, Mark	CB	5-10	190	5	Cal-Fullerton
98	**Cooks**, Johnie	LB	6-4	251	9	Mississippi State
87	**Cross**, Howard	TE	6-5	245	1	Alabama
99	**Deossie**, Steve	LB	6-2	248	7	Boston College
77	**Dorsey**, Eric	DE	6-5	280	5	Notre Dame
76	**Elliott**, John	T	6-7	305	3	Michigan
FA	**Feggins**, Howard	CB	5-10	190	3	North Carolina-Charlotte
29	**Guyton**, Myron	DB	6-1	205	1	E. Kentucky
15	**Hostetler**, Jeff	QB	6-3	212	7	West Virginia
74	**Howard**, Erik	NT	6-4	268	5	Washington State
82	**Ingram**, Mark	WR	5-10	188	4	Michigan State
47	**Jackson**, Greg	S	6-1	200	1	LSU
54	**Jiles**, Dwayne	LB	6-4	245	6	Texas Tech
52	**Johnson**, Pepper	LB	6-3	248	5	Ohio State
61	**Kratch**, Bob	G	6-3	288	1	Iowa
5	**Landeta**, Sean	P	6-0	200	6	Towson State
86	**Manuel**, Lionel	WR	5-11	180	7	Pacific
70	**Marshall**, Leonard	DE	6-3	285	8	LSU
30	**Meggett**, David	RB	5-7	180	1	Towson State
60	**Moore**, Eric	T	6-5	290	3	Indiana
20	**Morris**, Joe	RB	5-7	195	9	Syracuse
FA	**Mrosko**, Robert	TE	6-5	270	3	Penn State
65	**Oates**, Bart	C	6-3	263	6	Brigham Young
55	**Reasons**, Gary	LB	6-4	234	7	NW Louisiana State
72	**Riesneberg**, Doug	T	6-5	275	4	California
66	**Roberts**, William	T	6-5	280	6	Ohio State
81	**Robinson**, Stacy	WR	5-11	186	6	North Dakota State
22	**Rouson**, Lee	RB	6-1	222	6	Colorado
11	**Simms**, Phil	QB	6-3	214	12	Morehead State
56	**Taylor**, Lawrence	LB	6-3	243	10	North Carolina
21	**Thompson**, Reyna	CB	6-0	193	5	Baylor
FA	**Thornton**, Randy	LB	6-4	240	1	Houston
34	**Tillman**, Lewis	RB	6-0	195	1	Jackson State
83	**Turner**, Odessa	WR	6-3	205	4	NW Louisiana State
73	**Washington**, John	DE	6-4	275	5	Oklahoma State
36	**White**, Adrian	S	6-0	200	4	Florida
39	**White**, Sheldon	DB	5-11	188	3	Miami (OH)
59	**Williams**, Brian	C-G	6-5	300	1	Minnesota
23	**Williams**, Perry	CB	6-2	203	7	North Carolina State

GIANTS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Rodney **HAMPTON** *TB*	5-11, 217	**Georgia**	Recently timed at 4.6 in the 40 . . . Ranks third on the school's all-time rushing list with 2,668 yards . . . Consensus All-Southeastern Conference choice in 1989 . . . Despite being hampered by injuries most of the year, still managed to rank third in the conference in rushing, averaging 105.9 yards per game . . . Carried the ball 218 times for 1,059 yards and 12 TDs, the seventh best season rushing total in school history.
2	Mike **FOX** *DE*	6-6, 272	**West Virginia**	Has 4.99 speed in the 40 . . . Gets great penetration shooting through the gaps . . . Recorded 71 tackles (51 solos) and led the team with 10 sacks and 22 stops for 105 yards in losses.
3	Greg **MARK** *DE*	6-3, 252	**Miami (FL)**	Physical athlete with great strength who can play any position on the defensive front . . . Timed at 4.95 in the 40 . . . All-American selection by The Sporting News . . . Started all year at right defensive end, making 75 tackles (43 solos) with a team high 15.5 sacks and 25 stops for 119 yards in losses.
4	David **WHITMORE** *FS-SS*	6-0, 235	**Stephen F. Austin**	Dominating tackler who ranks with the all-time great defensive backs to perform at the NCAA Division I-AA level . . . Prototype safety who was recently timed at 4.63 in the 40 . . . Recorded 100 tackles (57 solos) with 2 sacks and 4 stops for 29 yards in losses . . . Caused and recovered 2 fumbles . . . Deflected 12 passes and picked off 4 others.
5	Craig **KUPP** *QB*	6-4, 220	**Pacific Lutheran**	Completed 300 passes of 499 attempts for 3,921 yards and 42 TDs in his three years at PLU . . . As a senior, completed 64.7% of his passes for 26 TDs and 2,398 yards with only 3 interceptions . . . Had a string of 146 straight attempts without an interception . . . His 1.04 interception percentage was a single-season NAIA record.
7	Aaron **EMANUEL** *RB*	6-2, 225	**Southern California**	Extremely interesting prospect at either halfback or fullback despite a checkered career due to an assortment of nagging injuries . . . Outstanding blocker with good strength and 4.5 speed in the 40 . . . Finished year with 272 yards on 57 carries (4.8 avg.) and despite a paucity of playing time was selected to play in both the Hula Bowl and King All-American Classic.
8	Barry **VOORHEES** *G*	6-5, 290	**Cal State-Northridge**	A massive and talented trap blocker who has displayed amazing quickness and agility for a man his size . . . Has 4.78 speed in the 40 . . . Bench presses 600 pounds . . . Did not play high school ball.
9	Clint **JAMES** *DE*	6-6, 270	**Louisiana State**	A four year letterman and two year starter who enjoyed a solid senior season . . . Despite missing one game with a minor injury, finished the season with 63 total tackles with 6 sacks and 9 tackles for losses . . . Had 2 forced fumbles and 3 pass breakups.
10	Otis **MOORE** *NT*	6-4, 270	**Clemson**	Consistency is the word to describe this player who did not miss a game during his 48 game career . . . Set an all-time Clemson record for victories with 38 triumphs . . . All-ACC team . . . Made 113 total tackles with 14 for losses and 9 sacks.
11	Tim **DOWNING** *DE*	6-5, 260	**Washington State**	An agile pass-rusher . . . Finished well on the upside in 1989 when he started every game and finished with a career high of 59 tackles including 12 for losses . . . Shared the team lead in sacks with 7.5 . . . Forced 2 fumbles and made 1 interception . . . Totalled 149 tackles, 11.5 sacks and 22 tackles behind the line of scrimmage in his career.
12	Matt **STOVER** *K*	5-11, 178	**Louisiana Tech**	A four year kicking specialist who hit on 64 of 88 field goals for a 72.7% success rate . . . Also had an impressive career mark on extra point conversions, hitting on 70 of 72 with the only two misses coming on blocked attempts.

GIANTS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	GIANTS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	298	266
Rushing	118	90
Passing	157	159
Penalty	23	17
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	105/232	79/205
4th Down: Made/Atts.	17/22	4/17
TOTAL NET YARDS	4963	4664
Avg. Per Game	310.2	291.5
Total Plays	1046	946
Avg. Per Play	4.7	4.9
NET YARDS RUSHING	1889	1539
Avg. Per Game	118.1	96.2
Total Rushes	556	421
NET YARDS PASSING	3074	3125
Avg. Per Game	192.1	195.3
Tackled/Yards Lost	46/281	39/302
Gross Yards	3355	3427
Attempts/Completions	444/248	486/273
Pct. of Completions	55.9	56.2
Had Intercepted	16	22
PUNTS/AVERAGE	70/43.1	74/40.1
NET PUNTING AVG.	37.8	30.8
PENALTIES/YARDS	83/675	109/800
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	30/14	38/15
TOUCHDOWNS	37	30
Rushing	17	10
Passing	17	16
Returns	3	4

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
GIANTS	77	83	100	88	0	348
OPP. TOTAL	55	66	38	93	0	252

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Allegre	0-0	6-6	8-9	5-9	1-2	20-26
Nittmo	0-0	4-5	5-5	0-2	0-0	9-12

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Anderson	325	1023	3.1	t36	14
Tillman	79	290	3.7	19	0
Carthon	57	153	2.7	18	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Turner	38	467	12.3	44	4
Meggett	34	531	15.6	t62	4
Manuel	33	539	16.3	49	1
Anderson	28	268	9.6	26	0
Mowatt	27	288	10.7	31	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Kinard	5	135	27.0	t58	1
P. Johnson	3	60	20.0	t39	1
P. Williams	3	14	4.7	14	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Landeta	70	3019	43.1	7	19	71	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Meggett	46	14	582	12.7	t76	1

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Meggett	27	577	21.4	43	0
Ingram	22	332	15.1	29	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Simms	405	228	3061	56.3	7.56	14	3.5	14	3.5	t62	40/244	77.6
Hostetler	39	20	294	51.3	7.54	3	7.7	2	5.1	t35	6/37	80.5

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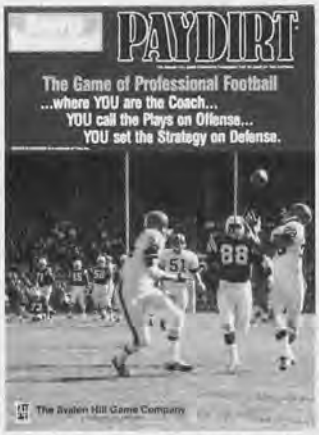
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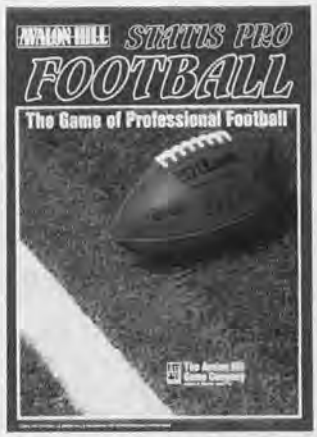

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WASHINGTON REDSKINS

REDSKINS READY FOR THE WARPATH

BY VITO STELLINO

When the 1989 season ended, the Washington Redskins were just getting ready to start.

The Redskins won their last five games of the season, but still suffered the disappointment of failing to make the playoffs for the second straight year despite a 10-6 mark. After going to three Super Bowls in a six-year span from 1982 through 1987, the Redskins weren't happy about watching the playoffs on television.

"Only 29 more weeks," center Jeff Bostic shouted in the locker room after the final game last year. They can't wait to get started again.

"I'm looking forward to this season," said wide receiver Gary Clark. "I think the Redskins lost a little bit of respect because we weren't in the playoffs two straight years, but we gained some of it back the last five weeks. I think if we come out strong this year we'll make some people believers again."

Clark doesn't even want to think about the possibility of missing the playoffs a third straight season.

"The great teams stay in it every year. I think we're a great team. We just had our problems the last two years. I think we solved some of our problems. I think we'll be back in the hunt for it all year," he said.

Despite the surge at the end of the year, the Redskins sent out some mixed signals during the season.

They closed the season with victories over five teams that finished the year with losing records and beat only two teams (Philadelphia and New Orleans) with winning records all year. They also lost to the team with the worst record (the 1-15 Dallas Cowboys) and beat the team with the second worst record (3-13 Atlanta Falcons) by just a point.

"I know a lot of people say we haven't been beating winning teams," Coach Joe Gibbs said. "Everybody else will have to evaluate that."

All this helps explain why 1990 should be a fascinating season for the team.

The Redskins, who are 17-15 in their 32 regular-season games since they blew out the Denver Broncos 42-10 in the Super Bowl two years ago, will find out whether they've

declined or whether they're ready to become a playoff team again.

Their first priority is figuring out how to beat the New York Giants. They're 1-7 against the Giants in non-strike games the last four seasons. They never recovered from losing to the Giants twice in the first five weeks in 1988 and twice in the first six weeks last year.

They also have to stop blowing home games to the Dallas Cowboys. The Cowboys are 2-26 in their last 28 games and both victories have come against the Redskins at RFK Stadium. If they had just split with the Giants and beaten the Cowboys last year they would have been 12-4 and division champions.

But they don't pay off on ifs in the NFL. The Redskins have to do it on the field.

The Redskins also are in somewhat of a transition stage on and off the field. Bobby Beathard quit as general manager in May 1989, spent a season on television as an NBC "Insider" and then took the GM job with the San Diego Chargers. Two highly regarded scouts, Dick Daniels and Billy Devaney, went with him.

Charley Casserly, who was Beathard's chief assistant in Washington, assumed the GM job and it's up to him to fill Beathard's rather large shoes.

Then there's the question of how long Gibbs, who's entering his 10th season, can avoid burnout. A decade is a long time for a workaholic who sleeps in his office three nights a week during the season.

When the Redskins were struggling at 7-6 with three games to go, Gibbs talked about a future without football. He made it sound as if he'd decide in the off-season whether he even wanted to continue in the job.

The next day, Gibbs issued a statement and said his comments were "misleading." He added, "I'm extremely excited about what I'm doing."

Gibbs' public musings probably reflected the fact that he was tired near the end of a long, frustrating season. It was particularly trying for him because his father died during the year and two players tested positive for cocaine use. One of them, Dexter Manley, was suspended for life although he can apply to be reinstated again next year.

If the Redskins get off to a good start this year, Gibbs will be enjoying his job again.

He was upbeat at the end of the year as the Redskins made something of a successful transition, particularly in the offensive line. The Redskins wound up with only seven players left from their 1982 Super Bowl team, only four of whom were starters.

A major example of the change was in

the offensive line where only one of the original "Hogs" — Bostic — was still starting late in the year. Such stalwarts as Russ Grimm, who came back for the last game, Joe Jacoby and Mark May were all sidelined with injuries.

In their absence, Raleigh McKenzie and rookie Mark Schlereth stepped into the guard spots usually manned by Grimm and May and Ed Simmons took over for Jacoby at right tackle. Jim Lachey, obtained from the Los Angeles Raiders in the Jay Schroeder deal a year ago, is now a fixture at left tackle.

Grimm, Jacoby and May were all protected by the Redskins when they put together their Plan B list and all will be back this season.

Meanwhile, Joe Bugel, the assistant coach who built the Hogs, has left for Phoenix where he's the Cardinals' new Head Coach. He's been replaced by Jim Hanifan, who came from Atlanta, but was once fired as the Head Coach of the Cardinals.

Regardless of how the battles work out, the fact that Schlereth, McKenzie and Simmons played so well when they got the chance shows the Redskins have plenty of depth in their line.

The Redskins also made a transition at the quarterback slot. When Doug Williams showed up at camp unable to play because of an ailing back, Mark Rypien stepped into the starting job. Plagued by a fumble problem for the first half of the year, Rypien was benched for Williams against Dallas in the ninth game of the year.

Williams, who was rusty after a 10 1/2 month layoff during which he underwent surgery on his back, started only two games before he was ailing again. Rypien then took over to start the final six games of the year.

The two week layoff seemed to help Rypien. He became sharper and led the team to victories in the final five games to nail down the starting job for this year. Rypien wound up passing for 3,768 yards while tossing 22 touchdown passes and being intercepted only 13 times.

Rypien's fast finish meant that second-year quarterback Stan Humphries didn't get a chance to play down the stretch. The Redskins are still high on him, but he needs experience.

The quarterbacks always have a lot of targets because the Redskins' trio of wide receivers — Art Monk, Clark and Ricky Sanders — is second to none.

Last year, Monk caught 86 passes for 1186 yards, Sanders 80 passes for 1138 yards and Clark 79 passes for 1229 yards. They were only the second team to have three thousand-yard receivers in the same season. San Diego did it in 1980 with John Jefferson, Charlie Joiner and Kellen Winslow.

When the Chargers did it, all three players made the Pro Bowl. None of the three Redskins made it. The problem is that the three Redskins' receivers probably split the vote because they were so close.

Rypien said, "All three of our guys had good years and that makes it tough to distinguish which of the three

Mark Rypien is now the main man in D.C.
GEORGE ROSE / ALLSPORT

should have gone." Rypien, though, is happy to be throwing to all three.

The Redskins' running back situation is expected to be wide open this year. At the end of last season, Earnest Byner, who had started out the year as the H-back, was the featured running back in the team's one-back offense. He took over after Gerald Riggs was plagued with injuries and Jamie Morris, who was left unprotected, was ineffective.

Byner wants to keep the job this year, but Riggs is eager to take a shot at getting it back and the Redskins also signed veteran James Wilder, who was left unprotected by the Tampa Bay Bucs.

Byner wants to remain the starter regardless of who the Redskins sign. He thinks he earned it because the Redskins won with him at running back at the end of the year.

"If we sign Herschel (Walker), it doesn't change the way I look at it," Byner said.

At tight end, the Redskins have one of their most unsung players in Don Warren. He's a dependable blocker and durable player who often gets taken for granted.

On defense, the team improved down the stretch, allowed just 10 second-half points in the last seven games and blanked Seattle 29-0 in the finale.

They did it even though two players (Manley and Barry Wilburn) were lost because of drug use and three other players (cornerback Darrell Green, defensive end Markus Koch and safety Alvin Walton) were forced from the lineup with injuries.

Art Monk is one of a trio of standout Redskin receivers. MIKE POWELL / ALLSPORT

When Manley and Koch were both lost at defensive end, Plan B acquisition Fred Stokes, signed from the Los Angeles Rams, stepped in and played well. Charles Mann, a Pro Bowler the last two years, is a standout at the other end position. Veteran Darryl Grant and rookie Tracy Rocker handled the tackle slots.

At linebacker, the Redskins will have to replace dependable Neal Olkewicz, who retired at the end of the season, in the middle. Greg Manusky tried to challenge Olkewicz, but was left unprotected. The job is wide open.

At outside linebacker, Wilber Marshall is the $6 million man, but he hasn't paid big dividends on the contract the Redskins gave him two years ago to lure him as a free agent from the Chicago Bears. He hasn't made the big plays for the Redskins that he did with the Bears.

The result was that Marshall didn't make the Pro Bowl in his first two seasons with the Redskins. He says he's just playing the defense he's assigned to and the Redskins' coaches sound somewhat defensive about the situation.

Linebacker coach Larry Peccatiello said, "'I'm tired of hearing, 'Cut people loose.' You just can't do that in football. You can't turn people loose on defense in a team sport."

In the secondary, the Redskins wound up with two young players, Plan B player Martin Mayhew and rookie A.J. Johnson, at the cornerback slots after Green was injured, Brian Davis was benched and Wilburn was sidelined with a drug problem.

Both Mayhew and Johnson played surprisingly well and that now figures to be a strong position when Green returns from a wrist injury.

At safety, Walton is a big hitter at strong safety, but the Redskins want more interceptions out of their free safety, Todd Bowles. He only had three last year.

The Redskins' kicking game is one of the strongest parts of the team. Kicker Chip Lohmiller made 29 of 40 field goal attempts while punter Ralf Mojsiejenko, obtained in a trade with San Diego, averaged 43 yards a punt.

Overall, the Redskins are optimistic about their chances for the upcoming year.

"We finished strong, but we have to get better," Casserly said.

Clark remembers when he was a rookie in 1985 and the team went 10-6 and just missed the playoffs.

The next two years, the Redskins won the NFC title and then won the Super Bowl.

The Redskins wouldn't mind repeating that history.❑

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56	**Bonner**, Brian	LB	6-1	225	2	Minnesota
53	**Bostic**, Jeff	C	6-2	260	11	Clemson
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29	**Branch**, Reggie	RB	5-11	235	6	East Carolina
FA	**Brandes**, John	TE	6-2	250	4	Cameron
24	**Bryant**, Kelvin	RB	6-2	195	4	North Carolina
67	**Brown**, Ray	T	6-5	280	5	Arkansas
FA	**Brown**, Tom	RB	6-1	228	2	Pittsburgh
21	**Byner**, Earnest	RB	5-10	215	7	East Carolina
50	**Caldwell**, Ravin	LB	6-3	229	4	Arkansas
84	**Clark**, Gary	WR	5-9	173	6	James Madison
51	**Coleman**, Monte	LB	6-2	230	12	Central Arkansas
34	**Davis**, Brian	CB	6-2	190	4	Nebraska
26	**Davis**, Wayne	CB	5-11	180	6	Indiana State
25	**Dupard**, Reggie	RB	5-11	205	5	SMU
FA	**Edwards**, Brad	FS	6-2	196	3	South Carolina
FA	**Geathers**, James	DE	6-7	290	6	Wichita State
54	**Gouveia**, Kurt	LB	6-1	227	4	Brigham Young
77	**Grant**, Darryl	DT	6-1	275	10	Rice
28	**Green**, Darrell	CB	5-8	170	8	Texas A&I
68	**Grimm**, Russ	G	6-3	275	10	Pittsburgh
59	**Harbour**, Dave	C	6-4	265	3	Illinois
90	**Hobbs**, Stephen	WR	5-11	195	1	North Alabama
FA	**Hodge**, Milford	DL	6-3	278	5	Washington State
80	**Howard**, Joe	WR	5-8	170	3	Notre Dame
16	**Humphries**, Stan	QB	6-2	223	2	NE Louisiana
66	**Jacoby**, Joe	T	6-7	310	10	Louisville
47	**Johnson**, A.J.	CB	5-8	176	2	SW Texas State
88	**Johnson**, Jimmie	TE	6-2	246	2	Howard
74	**Koch**, Markus	DE	6-5	275	5	Boise State
79	**Lachey**, Jim	T	6-6	290	6	Ohio State

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
FA	**Lockett**, Charles	WR	6-0	185	3	Long Beach State
8	**Lohmiller**, Chip	K	6-3	213	3	Minnesota
71	**Mann**, Charles	DE	6-6	270	8	Nevada-Reno
91	**Manusky**, Greg	LB	6-1	242	3	Colgate
58	**Marshall**, Wilber	LB	6-1	230	7	Florida
73	**May**, Mark	G-T	6-6	295	10	Pittsburgh
35	**Mayhew**, Martin	CB	5-8	172	2	Florida State
FA	**McArthur**, Kevin	LB	6-2	250	5	Lamar
63	**McKenzie**, Raleigh	C-G	6-2	270	6	Tennessee
FA	**Middleton**, Ron	TE	6-2	255	5	Auburn
FA	**Mitz**, Alonzo	DE	6-3	275	5	Florida
2	**Mojsiejenko**, Ralf	P	6-2	212	6	Michigan State
81	**Monk**, Art	WR	6-3	209	11	Syracuse
87	**Orr**, Terry	TE	6-3	227	5	Texas
35	**Profit**, Eugene	CB	5-10	175	3	Yale
37	**Riggs**, Gerald	RB	6-1	232	9	Arizona State
99	**Rocker**, Tracy	DT	6-3	288	1	Auburn
FA	**Rutledge**, Jeff	QB	6-1	195	12	Alabama
11	**Rypien**, Mark	QB	6-4	234	4	Washington State
83	**Sanders**, Ricky	WR	5-11	180	5	SW Texas State
69	**Schlereth**, Mark	C	6-3	265	2	Idaho
76	**Simmons**, Ed	T	6-5	300	4	Eastern Washington
FA	**Stanley**, Walter	WR-KR	5-9	180	6	Mesa
60	**Stokes**, Fred	DE	6-3	262	4	Georgia Southern
FA	**Swoopes**, Pat	DT	6-3	280	3	Mississippi State
86	**Tice**, Mike	TE	6-7	247	10	Maryland
31	**Vaughn**, Clarence	SS	6-0	202	4	Northern Illinois
40	**Walton**, Alvin	SS	6-0	180	5	Kansas
85	**Warren**, Don	TE	6-4	242	12	San Diego State
82	**Whisenhunt**, Ken	TE	6-3	240	5	Georgia Tech
45	**Wilburn**, Barry	CB	6-3	186	6	Mississippi
FA	**Wilder**, James	RB	6-3	225	10	Missouri

REDSKINS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
2	Andre **COLLINS** *ILB*	6-2, 224	**Penn State**	Began his collegiate career at safety, moving to linebacker prior to his junior campaign . . . All-American choice of the Football Writers Association . . . One of five finalists for the Dick Butkus Award . . . Led the team with a career high 130 tackles (68 solos) . . . Credited with 2 sacks, caused 3 fumbles and deflected 6 passes.
3	Mohammed **ELEWONIBI** *OG*	6-4, 282	**Brigham Young**	Established himself as one of the premier pass protectors in college football . . . Has outstanding lateral movement and excels as a trap blocker . . . Recently timed at 5.1 in the 40 . . . Recipient of the Outland Trophy in 1989 for the premier interior lineman in college football . . . Graded over 90% for blocking consistency in nine regular-season games.
4	Cary **CONKLIN** *QB*	6-4, 215	**Washington**	Despite only two years in the starting lineup, ranks second on the school's all-time passing list with 4,850 yards and third in total offense with 5,496 . . . Set school season records for passing yards (2,569) and total offense (2,502) in 1989.
4	Rico **LABBE** *SS*	5-11, 202	**Boston College**	Started all year at strong safety, finishing third on the team with a career high 121 tackles (70 solos), including 7 stops behind the line of scrimmage . . . Recovered 2 fumbles and had 6 pass deflections.
5	Brian **MITCHELL** *QB*	5-10, 198	**Southwestern Louisiana**	One of the most exciting performers in college football in the 1980s . . . Effective long range passer who is a threat to score every time he touches the ball, whether through the air or on the ground . . . Became the first player in college football history to throw for over 5,000 yards and run for over 3,000 during his career . . . Only the 20th player in NCAA annals to gain over 8,000 yards in total offense . . . Holds the NCAA career record for most rushing TDs by a quarterback (47) . . . Ranked third in the nation in total offense, averaging 298.0 yards per game . . . Set school season rushing records for most carries (237), yards gained (1,311), touchdowns (19) and most games for over 100 yards (7) . . . Added season passing records by completing 143 of 312 passes (45.8%) for 1,966 yards in 1989.
6	Kent **WELLS** *NG-DE*	6-4, 291	**Nebraska**	Bench presses over 450 pounds . . . Moved into the starting lineup as a junior . . . Has 5.27 speed in the 40 . . . All-Big 8 Conference pick in 1989 . . . Recorded 38 tackles (18 solos), including 26 stops in the final five games . . . Led the Cornhuskers with 6 sacks and 12 tackles for 64 yards in losses . . . Had 10 quarterback pressures.
9	Tim **MOXLEY** *OT*	6-7, 310	**Ohio State**	Two year starter at strong tackle . . . Moves extremely well for a player his size . . . Punishing run blocker . . . Started all games the last two years.
10	D'Juan **FRANCISCO** *SS-CB*	5-11, 187	**Notre Dame**	Talented and versatile athlete with exceptional speed . . . One of the fastest players on the team with 4.43 speed in the 40 . . . Came up with a career high 66 tackles (38 solos), including 1 for loss . . . Deflected 6 passes and picked off 4 others for 107 yards in returns . . . Added 57 yards on 2 kickoff returns.
10	Thomas **RAYAM** *DE*	6-7, 286	**Alabama**	Etched his name into Alabama football folklore when he blocked Ray Tarasi's field goal attempt on the final play of the Tide's 17-16 victory over Penn State . . . Recorded 47 tackles including 4 for losses and 13 QB pressures in 1989.
11	Jon **LEVERENZ** *ILB*	6-2, 226	**Minnesota**	Timed at 4.84 in the 40 . . . Finished fifth on the team with 56 tackles (32 solos) and deflected 1 pass.

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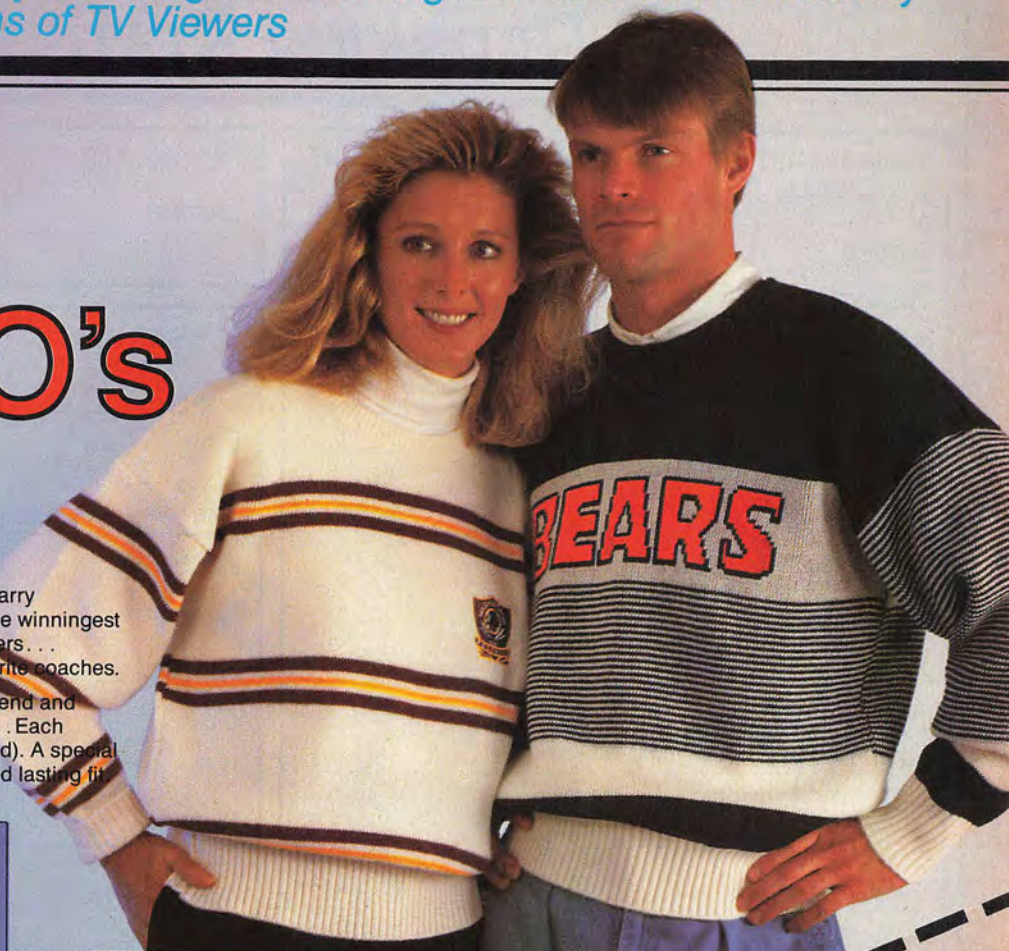

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8	PACKERS	22	BRONCOS
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REDSKINS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	REDSKINS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	338	274
Rushing	101	72
Passing	217	177
Penalty	20	25
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	105/240	77/202
4th Down: Made/Atts.	10/19	4/11
TOTAL NET YARDS	6253	4915
Avg. Per Game	390.8	307.2
Total Plays	1116	954
Avg. Per Play	5.6	5.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	1904	1344
Avg. Per Game	119.0	84.0
Total Rushes	514	384
NET YARDS PASSING	4349	3571
Avg. Per Game	271.8	223.2
Tackled/Yards Lost	21/127	40/304
Gross Yards	4476	3875
Attempts/Completions	581/337	530/277
Pct. of Completions	58.0	52.3
Had Intercepted	17	27
PUNTS/AVERAGE	63/42.3	76/40.1
NET PUNTING AVG.	33.3	34.5
PENALTIES/YARDS	105/881	98/796
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	32/20	24/15
TOUCHDOWNS	42	38
Rushing	14	9
Passing	24	25
Returns	4	4

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
REDSKINS	80	82	127	97	0	386
OPP. TOTAL	76	99	47	86	0	308

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Lohmiller	2-2	11-11	13-15	3-11	0-1	29-40

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Riggs	201	834	4.1	58	4
Byner	134	580	4.3	24	7
Morris	124	336	2.7	t12	2

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Monk	86	1186	13.8	t60	8
Sanders	80	1138	14.2	68	4
Clark	79	1229	15.6	t80	9
Byner	54	458	8.5	27	2
Warren	15	167	11.1	25	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
A. Johnson	4	94	23.5	t59	1
Walton	4	58	14.5	t29	1
B. Davis	4	40	10.0	15	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Mojsiejenko	62	2663	43.0	9	21	74	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Howard	21	18	200	9.5	38	0
Sanders	2	2	12	6.0	7	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Howard	21	522	24.9	t99	1
A. Johnson	24	504	21.0	38	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Rypien	476	280	3768	58.8	7.92	22	4.6	13	2.7	t80	16/108	88.1
Williams	93	51	585	54.8	6.29	1	1.1	3	3.2	46	2/10	64.1

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

WILL EAGLES EVER REACH THEIR POTENTIAL?

BY ANGELO CATALDI

After a demoralizing defeat in the first round of the playoffs last season, the Philadelphia Eagles stopped playing, but they didn't stop losing. Over the winter, offensive coordinator Ted Plumb lost his job, head coach Buddy Ryan lost some weight and quarterback Randall Cunningham lost his head.

All is not lost, however. The Eagles have made the playoffs for two consecutive seasons, they have the most opportunistic defense in football and their offensive leader is one of the most exciting players in the history of the game.

Last year, they were the darlings of the preseason prognosticators, an upwardly mobile team that seemed an ideal choice to make the Super Bowl. The fact is, among the major publications, the Eagles were projected to make it to the big game as often as San Francisco.

In the end, though, the Eagles made it only to one pretty big game, a 21-7 loss to the Rams in the NFC wild card contest. Instead of swilling champagne, the Eagles were left to ponder some worrisome questions.

Was Cunningham's disappointing season a temporary setback or the beginning of a decline?

Will wide receiver Mike Quick be able to recover from operations on both knees?

Can the offense rebound from a lethargic, inconsistent season?

Will the defense be able to repeat an extraordinary year?

Will Ryan's fifth season as head coach also be his last season?

Ryan's tenuous status, despite steady progress from 5-10-1 his first year to 11-5 last season, reflects the uncertain nature of these always unpredictable Eagles. The caustic, controversial coach has delivered on many of his bold promises, but still there is an ambivalence about him, both in the front office and among the fans.

At the end of the season, Ryan made a public appeal for a renewal of his contract, which had one year remaining, arguing that the players had become concerned about his job security. He assumed that his record, which includes two consecutive playoff appearances and a division title, guaranteed a substantial raise in his $200,000 annual salary and an extension of several years.

Apparently, he assumed wrong. Eagles owner Norman Braman ignored his request and said only that he would consider the matter at an appropriate time. Ryan was still holding out some hope for a new deal as winter ended, but by then it was clear that he had won more games on the field than friends in the front office.

The snub by Braman wasn't the only awkward moment for Ryan in the aftermath of the Eagles' early exit from the playoffs. He also said goodbye to one of his most trusted and loyal assistants, Plumb, under curious circumstances.

Plumb, who had worked with Ryan in Chicago before they both jumped to Philadelphia in 1986, was always considered a trusted ally. In fact, it was Plumb who saved Ryan's life in 1988 when a piece of pork chop became lodged in Ryan's throat. Throughout all the travails of four tempestuous seasons, Ryan and Plumb had always remained blindly loyal to one another.

But then, at the end of last season, suddenly the situation changed. Amid widespread speculation that Braman wanted Plumb out as offensive coordinator, Ryan quietly demoted his top assistant — in the same week that Ryan heartily recommended Plumb for the head coaching job with the New York Jets.

When asked who was responsible for Plumb's demotion, Ryan said the move was entirely his decision. However, the coach never really explained why he felt Plumb was worthy of a head coaching position in New York but not the lesser offensive coordinator's job in Philadelphia.

After losing out on the Jets' opening to Bruce Coslet, Plumb landed in Phoenix as the receivers' coach. On his way out the door, he added more intrigue to the situation by declaring that Braman was behind the move.

"The owner's never forced me to do anything," Ryan responded. "I wouldn't want the job if he did."

Still, people wondered. For someone who had rescued the Eagles from the futility of seven straight losing seasons, Ryan seemed to have no more authority, and maybe less, than he possessed when he arrived in Philadelphia four years ago.

And there were problems in the clubhouse, too. By season's end, it was clear that Cunningham was harboring some doubts of his own about the direction of the team. He groused all year about the playcalling, and he openly questioned the decision to release one of his favorite teammates, Henry "Gizmo" Williams, near the end of the season.

Ryan replaced Plumb with former Jets assistant Rich Kotite and immediately declared that the offense under Kotite would

be more diverse and less predictable. Cunningham seemed to welcome the change, but his satisfaction seemed, at best, fleeting.

A week after Kotite's appointment, Cunningham declared that he was thinking about retiring in two seasons, just before his 30th birthday.

"The way I feel right now, two years might be it," he said. "Two more years and I move on to something else. People think you should keep playing as long as you can, until the team kicks you out. I've never looked at it that way. I might give it all I've got for a couple of years and decide, 'That's it, that's enough.' "

The coaching staff and his own agent immediately dismissed the remarks as nonsense — a momentary lapse in logical thinking by Cunningham, they said — but the incident served as another example of Cunningham's increasingly fragile temperament.

Even before the off-season outburst, it was clear that Cunningham was changing, and not for the better. Exceptional seasons in '87 and '88 gave way last year to an exercise in football futility. As his statistical output plummeted, so, too, did his popularity.

Critics blamed the dropoff on Cunningham's extracurricular activities, which included television and radio shows and frequent public appearances. He and several teammates missed part of one preseason game to attend singer Whitney Houston's birthday party and another time he was seen on a shopping excursion with former Miss America Suzette Charles.

Cunningham sneered at all suggestions that his attention had been diverted, arguing strenuously that his problems were solely the result of a lack of offensive weapons. He pointed out repeatedly that his best passcatching target, Quick, was lost for half the season with tendinitis in both knees; his next favorite receiver, tight end Keith Jackson, was plagued by injuries in the middle of the season and his top possession receiver, Gregg Garrity, missed the latter part of the NFC East race with a broken collarbone.

In 1990, Cunningham expects Quick to be back in top form and he is planning on a new corps of young receivers from the college draft. His two best short-yardage receivers, Jackson and Keith Byars, will fortify the group. Anthony Toney will continue to work in the backfield with Byars, forming a tandem that is long on stability and short of explosiveness.

Barring any additions in the draft or the Plan B free agent market, Cunningham figured to work behind a rapidly improving offensive line of left tackle Matt Darwin, left guard Mike Schad, center David Alexander, right guard Ron Solt and right tackle Ron Heller. In particular, Solt solidified the run-blocking when he finally recovered from knee injuries and a suspension for steroid use last season.

While the offense was beset all year with inconsistency, the defense developed into the focal point of the team. The marauding Buddy Ryan defense that led Chicago to a Super Bowl championship in 1986 finally made it to Philadelphia last year, and it was worth the wait.

With the best turnover ratio in football, the Eagles' defense established itself as one of the most punishing and most penetrating in the NFL. The essence of that spirit was contained in a front four composed of end Clyde Simmons, tackles Jerome Brown and Mike Pitts and, arguably the best defensive player in football, end Reggie White.

Not only did White turn in another brilliant season, but last year he appeared to raise the games of the other players around him. As offenses were forced to double- and triple-team him, White's linemates, especially Simmons, emerged as stars of their own.

Meanwhile, linebackers Seth Joyner and Byron Evans also

Reggie White, the "Minister of Defense."

ROBERT BECK / ALLSPORT

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
72	**Alexander**, David	C-T	6-3	282	4	Tulsa
21	**Allen**, Eric	CB	5-10	188	3	Arizona State
93	**Bailey**, David	DE	6-4	240	2	Oklahoma State
49	**Bell**, Todd	SS	6-1	215	9	Ohio State
64	**Berardelli**, Paul	G-C	6-2	276	1	Villanova
99	**Brown**, Jerome	DT	6-2	295	4	Miami (FL)
41	**Byars**, Keith	RB	6-1	238	5	Ohio State
80	**Carter**, Cris	WR	6-3	198	4	Ohio State
6	**Cavanaugh**, Matt	QB	6-2	210	13	Pittsburgh
12	**Cunningham**, Randall	QB	6-4	203	6	Nevada-Las Vegas
78	**Darwin**, Matt	T	6-4	275	5	Texas A&M
27	**Dial**, Alan	FS	6-1	188	1	UCLA
36	**Drummond**, Robert	RB	6-1	205	2	Syracuse
84	**Edwards**, Anthony	WR-KR	5-11	195	2	N.M. Highlands
56	**Evans**, Byron	LB	6-2	235	4	Arizona
33	**Frizzell**, William	S-CB	6-3	206	7	North Carolina Central
67	**Gabbard**, Steve	T	6-4	275	1	Florida State
86	**Garrity**, Gregg	WR	5-10	175	8	Penn State
83	**Giles**, Jimmie	TE	6-3	245	14	Alcorn State
90	**Golic**, Mike	DT	6-5	275	5	Notre Dame
54	**Hager**, Britt	LB	6-1	222	2	Texas
95	**Harris**, Al	LB	6-5	265	11	Arizona State
73	**Heller**, Ron	T	6-6	280	7	Penn State
34	**Hoage**, Terry	FS	6-3	201	7	Georgia
48	**Hopkins**, Wes	FS	6-1	215	7	S. Methodist
88	**Jackson**, Keith	TE	6-2	250	3	Oklahoma
46	**Jenkins**, Izel	CB	5-10	191	3	North Carolina State
85	**Johnson**, Ron	WR	6-3	190	6	Long Beach State
31	**Jones**, Tyrone	SS	6-4	223	2	Arkansas State
59	**Joyner**, Seth	LB	6-2	248	5	Texas-El Paso
94	**Kaufusi**, Steve	DE-DT	6-4	274	2	Brigham Young
FA	**Lebel**, Harper	TE	6-4	251	2	Colorado State
37	**Lilly**, Sammy	CB	5-9	178	2	Georgia Tech
9	**McPherson**, Don	QB	6-1	193	2	Syracuse
74	**Pitts**, Mike	DT	6-5	277	8	Alabama
82	**Quick**, Mike	WR	6-2	195	9	North Carolina State
66	**Reeves**, Ken	T-G	6-5	270	6	Texas A&M
50	**Rimington**, Dave	C-G	6-3	285	8	Nebraska
7	**Ruzek**, Roger	K	6-1	195	4	Weber State
79	**Schad**, Mike	G	6-5	290	3	Queens (Canada)
51	**Shaw**, Ricky	LB	6-4	240	3	Oklahoma State
23	**Sherman**, Heath	RB-KR	6-0	190	2	Texas A&I
62	**Sherman**, Paul	OL	6-5	315	R	East Tennessee State
96	**Simmons**, Clyde	DE	6-6	275	5	Western Carolina
68	**Singletary**, Reggie	G-T	6-3	285	4	North Carolina State
52	**Small**, Jessie	LB	6-3	239	2	East Kentucky
65	**Solt**, Ron	G	6-3	288	6	Maryland
61	**Tamburello**, Ben	G-C	6-3	278	3	Auburn
10	**Teltschik**, John	P	6-2	210	5	Texas
25	**Toney**, Anthony	FB	6-0	227	5	Texas A&M
FA	**Vaughn**, Willie	WR	5-11	205	R	Kansas
20	**Waters**, Andre	SS	5-11	199	7	Cheyney
47	**Werner**, Greg	TE	6-4	236	2	DePauw
92	**White**, Reggie	DE	6-5	285	6	Tennessee

EAGLES DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Ben **SMITH** *CB-FS*	5-11, 183	**Georgia**	Ferocious tackler and outstanding leaper with good range . . . All-Southeastern Conference . . . Team's Best All-Around Defensive Player . . . Third in the nation with 10 interceptions for 54 yards in returns . . . Made 95 tackles (59 solos), 1 sack and 3 stops for 11 yards in losses . . . Caused 4 fumbles and recovered 2 others . . . Had 12 pass deflections.
2	Mike **BELLAMY** *WR*	6-1, 196	**Illinois**	Had a banner senior season in 1989, leading the team and ranking third in the conference with 51 receptions for 761 yards (14.9 avg.) and 7 TDs . . . Led the conference and ranked second in the nation with 14 kickoff returns for 432 yards (30.9 avg.) . . . Grabbed 8 passes for 166 yards.
3	Fred **BARNETT** *WR*	6-1, 203	**Arkansas State**	Outstanding deep threat with tremendous leaping ability and blazing speed in the open . . . Recently timed at 4.43 in the 40 . . . Holds the Indian all-time records with 95 receptions for 1,571 yards . . . Caught a career high 38 passes for 643 yards and 4 TDs in 1989 . . . Carried 11 times for 103 yards (9.4 avg.).
5	Calvin **WILLIAMS** *WR*	6-0, 181	**Purdue**	A dangerous punt returner with 4.48 speed . . . Ranks fifth on the Boilermakers' all-time list with 1,855 receiving yards, is tied for fifth with 138 receptions and tied for second on the TD receiving list with 17 . . . Ranked third in the league and led the team with a career high 51 receptions for 630 yards (12.4 avg.) and 7 TDs in 1989 . . . Returned 13 punts for 138 yards (10.6 avg.) . . . His 13 catches vs. Michigan tied for second place on the school's game record list.
6	Kevin **THOMPSON** *SS*	5-11, 191	**Oklahoma**	Unheralded pass defender who has been the leader of the Sooner defensive backfield the last two years . . . Recently timed at 4.45 in the 40 . . . Saw action at both safety and cornerback and finished with 39 tackles (29 solos) . . . Picked off 2 passes and deflected 6 others . . . Recovered 2 fumbles and caused another.
7	Terry **STROUF** *T*	6-2, 285	**Wisconsin-LaCrosse**	Raw talent who played well and dominated in Division II . . . Outstanding speed for a man his size and shows he has explosiveness in his body . . . Able pass protector.
8	Curt **DYKES** *OT-G*	6-3, 274	**Oregon**	Great strength and fine speed for a player his size . . . Dominates in one-on-one situations . . . Top-notch pass protector who is agile enough to handle his quicker defenders . . . Recently timed at 4.84 in the 40.
10	Orlando **ADAMS** *NG*	6-1, 303	**Jacksonville State**	Physically imposing force in the middle of the line . . . Recently timed at 5.17 in the 40 . . . Bench presses over 425 pounds . . . All-American choice in 1989 by AP . . . Recorded 115 tackles (61 solos) with 5 sacks and 14 hits for 48 yards in losses . . . Caused 4 fumbles and deflected 2 passes . . . Led the team with 27 quarterback pressures.
11	John **HUDSON** *C*	6-2, 266	**Auburn**	One of the major reasons for the success of the Tiger passing game in recent years . . . Very physical drive blocker . . . Recently timed at 5.1 in the 40.
11	Tyrone **WATSON** *TE*	6-4, 210	**Tennessee State**	Saw action in all eleven games, starting eight contests at tight end . . . Caught 8 passes for 235 yards and 2 TDs.
12	Judd **GARRETT** *RB*	6-1, 205	**Princeton**	Holds Princeton's career records in all rushing categories: attempts (687), yards (3,109), TDs (32), all-purpose yardage (4,510), scoring (248), and ranks third in receptions with 137 . . . Rushed for 1,347 yards and 14 TDs as a senior.

EAGLES STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	EAGLES	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	321	281
Rushing	120	81
Passing	171	171
Penalty	30	29
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	97/246	79/217
4th Down: Made/Atts.	6/13	5/15
TOTAL NET YARDS	5320	4894
Avg. Per Game	332.5	305.9
Total Plays	1123	1017
Avg. Per Play	4.7	4.8
NET YARDS RUSHING	2208	1605
Avg. Per Game	138.0	100.3
Total Rushes	540	426
NET YARDS PASSING	3112	3289
Avg. Per Game	194.5	205.6
Tackled/Yards Lost	45/343	62/424
Gross Yards	3455	3713
Attempts/Completions	538/294	529/258
Pct. of Completions	54.6	48.8
Had Intercepted	16	30
PUNTS/AVERAGE	87/39.0	85/42.0
NET PUNTING AVG.	35.3	35.5
PENALTIES/YARDS	114/938	118/956
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	43/16	44/26
TOUCHDOWNS	40	33
Rushing	14	6
Passing	23	26
Returns	3	1

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
EAGLES	61	91	84	106	0	342
OPP. TOTAL	74	74	47	79	0	274

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Zendejas	1-1	2-2	3-5	3-7	0-0	9-15
Ruzek	1-1	2-3	4-6	1-1	0-0	8-11

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Cunningham	104	621	6.0	51	4
Toney	172	582	3.4	44	3
Byars	133	452	3.4	t16	5

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Byars	68	721	10.6	60	0
Jackson	63	648	10.3	33	3
Carter	45	605	13.4	42	11
Johnson	20	295	14.8	34	1
Toney	19	124	6.5	15	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Allen	8	38	4.8	18	0
Everett	4	64	16.0	t30	1
Frizzell	4	58	14.5	27	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Teltschik	57	2246	39.4	3	12	58	0
Cunningham	6	319	53.2	0	3	91	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Williams	30	7	267	8.9	24	0
Edwards	7	5	64	9.1	28	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Higgs	16	293	18.3	30	0
Williams	14	249	17.8	28	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Cunningham	532	290	3400	54.5	6.39	21	3.9	15	2.8	t66	45/343	75.5
Cavanaugh	5	3	33	60.0	6.60	1	20.0	1	20.0	t13	0/0	79.6

upgraded their work as they gained more experience. By season's end, Ryan was touting both of them for All-Pro honors. The only weak link in the linebacking corps was Al Harris, who never fulfilled Ryan's expectations after signing as a Plan B free agent last year. Harris' spot at right linebacker will probably go to Jessie Small, who impressed the coaching staff in his rookie season on special teams and in a reserve role. Britt Hager is another young linebacker who could emerge as a key player in 1990.

The secondary, while somewhat improved, remains an area of concern, most notably at left corner and free safety. Cornerback Izel Jenkins has a flair for the spectacular, but he hasn't proven yet that he can handle all the routine plays. Free safety Wes Hopkins has lost a step — maybe one step too many at this point.

Hopkins figures to fight for his starting job with veteran Terry Hoage again this year after Hoage missed most of the 1989 season with a leg injury. Andre Waters is secure at strong safety, and Eric Allen emerged as a star-quality corner on the right side. Sammy Lilly and William Frizzell add some depth to the unit and are part of the nickel package. Veteran Todd Bell may be back after a serious injury ruined his 1989 season.

In the kicking game, punter John Teltschik is expected back after missing the last half of the season with leg problems. Place-kicker Roger Ruzek seems certain of holding his job after an impressive half-season in Philadelphia.

So, given all of the above, how good are the Eagles?

Very good. You don't have back-to-back seasons of 10-6 and 11-5 in the NFC East if you're not a very good team. But are they good enough to take the next step toward the Super Bowl? That's a question that no one can answer.

No one, that is, except Buddy Ryan.

When Ryan was asked to analyze his team, four years into his tenure as coach, he said without hesitation that the Eagles compared favorably with the champion San Francisco 49ers, except for quarterback Joe Montana.

"You take Montana off their team and they're not any better than we are," Ryan said. "They're world champions, but they're still not any better than we are."

The first reaction to those words was that Ryan's off-season diet — which melted 15 pounds off his round frame in the first month— had left him a bit light-headed. By most accounts, the Eagles must improve their defensive secondary and their running game to even think about drawing valid comparisons with the 49ers.

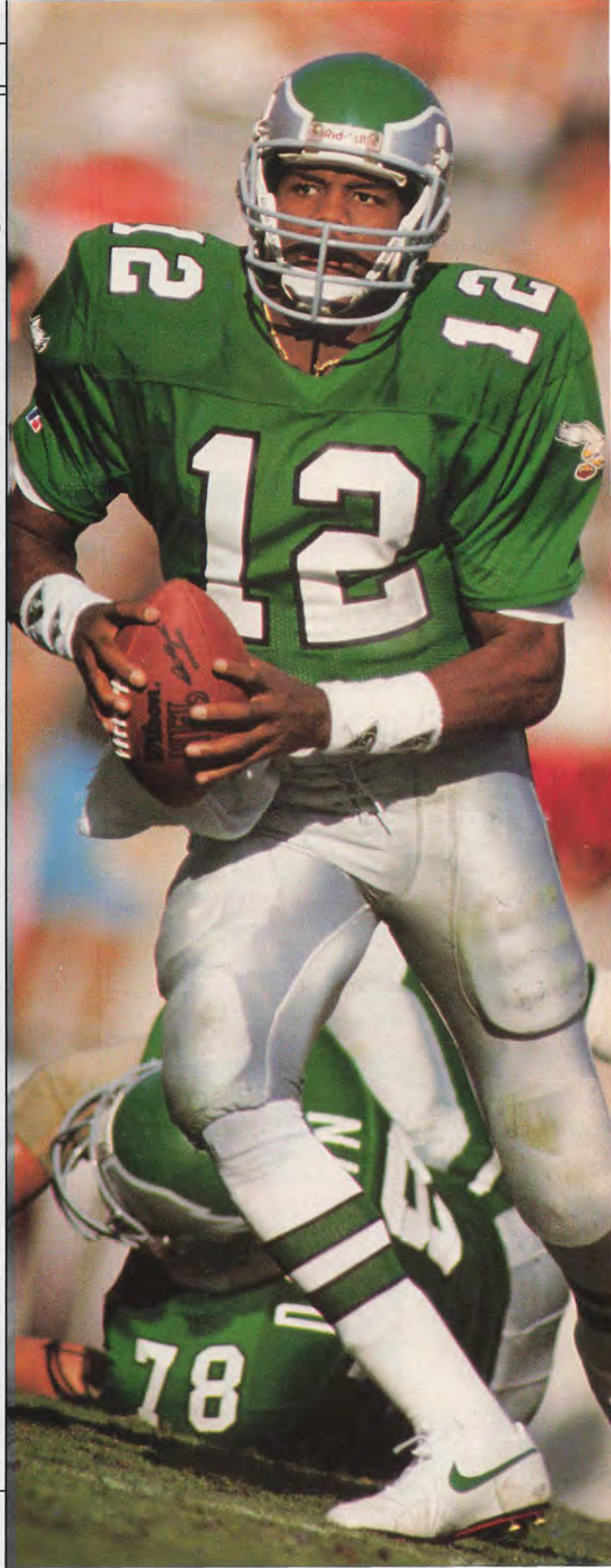
The second reaction was that Ryan's analysis had better be accurate, for his own good. In the fifth year of his chaotic reign, the Eagles need to do more now than just make the playoffs. They need to win a game in the playoffs, maybe two.

That's the ironic part of the rebuilding process that Ryan has masterminded in Philadelphia. His "winning-is-everything" philosophy has become the credo of the entire organization. Second place is no place now. A winning record no longer is enough.

If Ryan takes a step closer to the Super Bowl in 1990, he can expect a huge new contract and all of the amenities that go with success. Rest assured, he will demand them.

But if he doesn't — if Cunningham and Quick don't rebound, if Kotite's offensive scheme is no more effective than Plumb's, if the defense stops finding ways to win games — then it could be more than just a long, cold winter in Philadelphia.

It could be the last long, cold winter in Philadelphia for Buddy Ryan.❑



Randall Cunningham hopes to rebound from a disappointing 1989.

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E. Golf Shirt (S-M-L-XL) - **$27.95 ea.**
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Giants Sack Club	W. Slaughter	V. Testaverde	Saints Sack Club
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SB-X-Steelers
SB-XI-Raiders
SB-XII-Cowboys
SB-XIII-Steelers
SB-XIV-Steelers
SB-XV-Raiders
SB-XVI-49ers
SB-XVII-Redskins
SB-XVIII-Raiders
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Eagles - 88 Jackson
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Giants - 20 Morris
Giants - 56 Taylor
Giants - 89 Bavaro
Bills - 12 Kelly
Bills - 55 Bennett
Lions - 20 Sanders
Patriots - 56 Tippett
Colts - 29 Dickerson
Bears - 34 Payton
Bears - 35 Anderson
Bears - 50 Singletary
Bears - 95 Dent
49ers - 16 Montana
49ers - 33 Craig
49ers - 42 Lott
49ers - 80 Rice
Rams - 11 Everett
Vikings - 9 Kramer
Vikings - 81 Carter
Vikings - 34 Walker
Saints - 36 Mayes
Saints - 3 Herbert
Jets - 7 O'Brien
Jets - 88 Toon
Chargers - 14 Fouts
Chargers - 80 Winslow
Steelers - 12 Bradshaw
Steelers - 82 Stallworth
Steelers - 83 Lipps
Browns - 19 Kosar
Browns - 34 Mack
Browns - 82 Newsome
Browns - 7 Esiason
Bengals - 30 Woods
Chiefs - 35 Okoye
Oilers - 1 Moon
Raiders - 25 Biletnikoff
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Raiders - 34 Jackson
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PHOENIX CARDINALS

NEW LOOK IN THE HOUSE OF CARDS

BY CHRIS COBBS

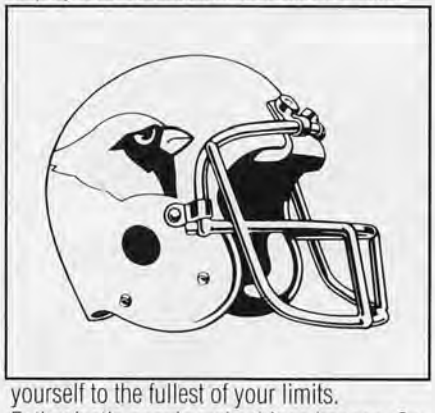
Say this for the Chicago/St. Louis/Phoenix Cardinals — they've never been guilty of staying too long in one spot — or with one coach. With the hiring of Joe Bugel, the Big Red has employed 32 coaches since 1920. Not one of Bugel's predecessors lasted longer than six seasons. The most recent to take his leave was Gene Stallings, who wound up at the University of Alabama after a long-simmering dispute with the front office resulted in his termination with five games left on the 1989 schedule.

Stallings was fired, in part, because management thought he worked too hard at being popular with the media and fans. But his replacement looks as if he may be a popular guy, too. In turning to Bugel, a member of Joe Gibbs' Washington staff since 1981, the Cardinals have a man with an effervescent personality and the slicked-back hair of Los Angeles Lakers coach Pat Riley. He has the usual rebuilding job.

It's actually a misnomer to say the Cardinals are rebuilding, since they've never really built a solid playoff foundation. With the retirement of quarterback Neil Lomax, whose career was cut short in its prime by arthritis in his left hip, the job facing Bugel is not likely to be completed in less than a year or three.

Meanwhile, the Cardinals can only hope for a gentler, kinder reception from their fans after slashing ticket prices by about 25 percent. The move was necessitated after attendance plunged from an average of 59,000 in 1988 to 43,000 last season. Owner Bill Bidwill had been singled out for gouging Phoenix fans by charging the highest prices in pro football, an average of $38 in the team's first season after moving west from St. Louis. With the new price reductions, there are more than 40,000 seats priced at $15 to $20 and the average price is about $24, in line with what most NFL teams charge. Satisfied they've taken care of their economic problems, the Cardinals want to shift the focus to the playing field.

Bugel, comes on strong — real strong. His middle initial should be "E" for "enthusiastic". "I hope my enthusiasm will permeate to the players," he said. "You have to play with enthusiasm in order to extend



yourself to the fullest of your limits. Enthusiastic people make things happen. On offense, we want to be physical and hustling. On defense, we want 11 people around the ball so we can increase our turnover ratio. We want to be very, very physical at all times."

Bugel also is very, very realistic about what the Cardinals can accomplish this year. "We're not going to make any false promises," he said. "We want our players to have realistic goals. Maybe we can win a couple of extra games with maximum hustle. Can we be a .500 team or better? I don't want to speculate at this point. We're not going to make any promises about when this will be a Super Bowl team." Bugel did say he believes the Cardinals are a better team than the Redskins were in 1981. The Redskins, of course, appeared in the Super Bowl the following season.

For a change, defense, not offense, appears to be the Cardinals' better half this year. New defensive coordinator Joe Pascale promises an attacking style and he has some people to back up his promise. Pascale, who presided over the development of a young linebacking corps last year, looks to Freddie Joe Nunn, Ken Harvey, Eric Hill and Tim McDonald to lead by aggression. Pascale plans a more varied defensive system, sometimes shifting to a 3-4 alignment, at other times resorting to the "46" style popularized by Buddy Ryan. The Cards aren't going to fall back on the old formula of running up 35 or 40 points and praying it will be enough.

Nunn is easily the Cardinals' premier down lineman. After leading the team with 14 sacks in 1988, he seemed on the verge of attaining All-Pro status before a run-in with drugs led to a month- long suspension early last season. Although his sack total dropped, he appeared to have recaptured his old zest and quickness.

The rest of the defensive line is an iffy bunch. End David Galloway has never had the truly productive season long predicted for him simply because he never has enjoyed a completely healthy year. At the age of 30, it's unlikely he's ever going to escape the pattern of nicks and scrapes that have diluted his career. At the tackles, Bob Clasby and Jim Wahler offer the combination of steady veteran and quick, promising newcomer, but both have to stay well. Rod Saddler has lined up everywhere along the front line, without staking a claim to any spot.

The linebackers could be the best part of this defense. Harvey improved dramatically a year ago and has the speed to produce 10 or 12 sacks. Hill is a thunderous hitter in the middle and Anthony Bell is fi-

nally emerging as something more than a journeyman. It's possible that Nunn, who was drafted as a linebacker, may be used as a backer in pass-rush situations.

McDonald, entering his fourth season, blossomed into a Pro Bowl safety in 1989 and seems capable of even more. A relentless hitter with the smarts to call defensive signals and the range to pick off seven passes, McDonald has the tools to become a dominant defensive back. He's flanked by another above-average safety, Lonnie Young, another big hitter who has been injury-prone the last two years. The incumbent cornerbacks, Cedric Mack and Carl Carter, have been ripe for replacements for years but the Cardinals haven't found anyone who can dislodge them. Jim Johnson, who shifts from defensive line coach to the secondary, will keep looking.

For the Big Red offense, the Lomax era ended last season, not with a bang, but a whimper. Anticipating that Lomax might not be able to play, the Cardinals signed Plan B free agent Gary Hogeboom as quarterback insurance. Hogeboom paid off, sort of. His maturity and competitiveness were unquestioned, but his arm lacked its old zing, and he was no match for Lomax at spotting secondary receivers. Saddled with an unstable, porous line, a woeful set of runners and a battered corps of receivers, Hogeboom labored to attain mediocrity.

Hogeboom has vowed to hold onto the job this year, but either Tom Tupa or Timm Rosenbach can be expected to give him a tussle. If one of the kids dislodge Hogeboom, it won't be from lack of opportunity or instruction from new offensive coordinator Jerry Rhome. Put it this way — the Big Red could be in big trouble if neither Tupa nor Rosenbach is ready to handle the job.

Bugel thought it might be the end of training camp before a clear-cut No. 1 emerged. Then again, he said, hedging his guess, it might happen as early as quarterback school in the springtime. "I think it's going to be very hotly contested," Bugel said. "To me, it's wide open. The guy who can best grasp our offense and carry it out is going to be the quarterback.

"We believe we have someone who can be a winner as our quarterback. We believe someone will come to the forefront. One way I'll know is by the guy's command in the huddle, his toughness, how he verbalizes in that huddle. A quarterback has to get a team's attention. He's got to be a cold-blood gunfighter. As a quarterback, you can't be a whiner or a complainer if you're going to survive in this league. What we want is a feisty guy who can think on his feet. The quarterback has to

Avoiding Freddie Joe Nunn is a Cardinal rule of Phoenix rivals.

ALLEN DEAN STEELE

be strong if you're going to win."

As far as the Cards' two junior quarterbacks, "feisty" is a word better applied to Rosenbach than Tupa. Rosenbach, plucked from the 1989 supplemental draft and rewarded with a $5.3 million contract, has some of the swagger of a Johnny Unitas or a Bobby Layne. But he was an uninspiring practice player who delivered a disconcertingly high percentage of wobbly passes. Tupa, on the other hand, is a fine athlete with a strong arm who in two years has shown little or no fire in his belly. If you could combine Rosenbach's cockiness with Tupa's athleticism, the result would be, let's say, Jim Kelly.

In any event, a quarterback controversy seems a possibility. "I think I can step in and start," Tupa said. "I'm going in with the idea it's my team." Hogeboom voiced similar sentiments, saying he ended last year No. 1 and he intends to stay that way. "I'm going to work as hard I've ever worked to keep it," he said. "I'm not going to give anybody my job."

Somewhere in the midst of it will be Rhome, trying to repeat some of the tricks that helped him develop such young quarterbacks as Jim Zorn and Dave Krieg at Seattle and Mark Rypien and Jay Schroeder at Washington.

Even when the Cardinals decide on their quarterback, there's no guarantee the passing game will return to its level of recent years. Ace receivers J.T. Smith, 34, and Roy Green, 32, both missed long stretches of last season with injuries. At their advanced age, it's risky to count on them for 16 games. If Smith is fully recovered from an ankle injury, he should be one of the NFL's better possession receivers. Before his injury, he had made 62 catches and was on a pace to challenge Art Monk's record of 106. Green isn't as prolific but is still a deep threat. Complementing the old geezers is young Ernie Jones, who could emerge as a star with a little more polish.

"If we can keep Roy and J.T. on the field for 16 games, we could be pretty darn good," Bugel said. "We want to do all we can to extend their careers. J.T. can get you first downs and Roy still commands double coverage."

Tim McDonald is a Phoenix bright spot. ALLEN DEAN STEELE

At tight end, the Cardinals would like to see a comeback by Rob Awalt, who slumped to 33 catches last year. He has the tools to catch 50 or 60. Second-year man Walter Reeves, drafted for his blocking ability, must mature and improve his hands to challenge Awalt. Jay Novacek, who alternated between tight end and wide receiver for several years, moved to Dallas under Plan B.

The running game was a shambles last year, making the acquisition of a talented back one of the club's chief priorities. Bugel favors the one-back set used by the Redskins, but won't use it if the right player isn't available. If fullback Earl Ferrell, who gained only 502 yards, can reduce his weight to about 235, he might give the Cardinals what O.J. Anderson gave the New York Giants last year — 1,000 yards rushing, despite being "thirtysomething". Less likely is a big comeback by Stump Mitchell, who suffered a serious knee injury, or a major role for Tony Jordan, who has looked a step slow and hesitant about picking a hole. "He's big and physical," Bugel said of Jordan. "We will have to coach him hard."

The Phoenix offensive line is not going to be confused with Bugel's former collection of Hogs in Washington. The only player with a guarantee of starting at the same position is left tackle Luis Sharpe, a Pro Bowler and team leader. Sharpe is one of the premier pass-blockers in the game, but the rest of the line has been too easily penetrated by pass-rushers in recent years. Tootie Robbins, the other starting offensive tackle, may be pushed by second-year man Joe Wolf, who was forced to play both guard and tackle as a rookie. "Joe has a good upbringing and can be an excellent player, but right now he lacks upper body strength," Bugel said. Depending on the outcome of Plan B negotiations, the Cardinals were thinking of shifting center Derek Kennard to guard, possibly replacing Lance Smith. Reserve strength is provided by MikeZandofsky and Kani Kauahi, who doubles as long snapper.❑

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
80	**Awalt**, Robert	TE	6-5	244	4	San Diego State
44	**Baker**, Tony	RB	5-10	190	4	East Carolina
55	**Bell**, Anthony	OLB	6-3	235	5	Michigan State
25	**Blair**, Stanley	CB	6-0	190	1	SE Oklahoma State
71	**Bostic**, Joe	G	6-3	276	11	Clemson
33	**Burch**, John	RB	5-10	200	1	Tennessee-Martin
16	**Camarillo**, Rich	P	5-11	193	10	Washington
45	**Carr**, Lydell	FB	6-1	228	2	Oklahoma
41	**Carter**, Carl	CB	5-11	189	5	Texas Tech
79	**Clasby**, Bob	DT	6-5	276	5	Notre Dame
17	**Del Greco**, Al	K	5-10	198	7	Auburn
21	**Eaton**, Tracey	S	6-1	195	3	Portland State
65	**Galloway**, David	DE	6-3	259	9	Florida
81	**Green**, Roy	WR	6-0	194	12	Henderson State
73	**Hadd**, Gary	DT	6-4	278	3	Minnesota
56	**Harvey**, Ken	OLB	6-2	230	3	California
82	**Hess**, Bill	WR	5-9	172	1	Utah
58	**Hill**, Eric	MLB	6-1	248	2	Louisiana State
5	**Hogeboom**, Gary	QB	6-4	207	11	Central Michigan
83	**Holmes**, Don	WR	5-10	177	5	Mesa (CO)
53	**Jax**, Garth	OLB	6-2	229	5	Florida State
86	**Jones**, Ernie	WR	5-11	191	3	Indiana
32	**Jordan**, Tony	RB	6-2	220	3	Kansas State
91	**Jorden**, Tim	TE	6-3	233	1	Indiana
57	**Kauahi**, Kani	C	6-2	270	8	Hawaii
70	**Kennard**, Derek	C	6-3	309	5	Nevada-Reno
52	**Kirk**, Randy	OLB	6-2	231	4	San Diego State

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
51	**Lewis**, Bill	C	6-7	275	5	Nebraska
29	**Lynch**, Lorenzo	CB	5-9	199	4	Cal State-Sacramento
47	**Mack**, Cedric	CB	6-0	185	8	Baylor
46	**McDonald**, Tim	SS	6-2	209	4	Southern California
54	**McKenzie**, Reggie	MLB	6-1	242	5	Tennessee
30	**Mitchell**, Stump	RB	5-9	194	10	Citadel
78	**Nunn**, Freddie Joe	DE	6-4	250	5	Mississippi
89	**Reeves**, Walter	TE	6-4	249	2	Auburn
63	**Robbins**, Tootie	T	6-5	307	9	East Carolina
3	**Rosenbach**, Timm	QB	6-2	210	2	Washington State
72	**Saddler**, Rod	DE	6-5	280	4	Texas A&M
67	**Sharpe**, Luis	T	6-4	260	9	UCLA
36	**Sikahema**, Vai	RB-KR	5-9	184	5	Brigham Young
84	**Smith**, J.T.	WR	6-2	187	13	North Texas State
61	**Smith**, Lance	G	6-2	278	6	Louisiana State
69	**Smith**, Vernice	OL	6-2	280	1	Florida A&M
27	**Taylor**, Jay	CB	5-9	170	2	San Jose State
19	**Tupa**, Tom	QB-P	6-4	220	3	Ohio State
23	**Turner**, Marcus	DB	6-0	191	2	UCLA
66	**Wahler**, Jim	DT	6-4	268	2	UCLA
60	**Walker**, Jeff	G-T	6-4	289	4	Memphis State
68	**Wolf**, Joe	T-G	6-5	279	2	Boston College
24	**Wolfley**, Ron	FB	6-0	222	6	West Virginia
43	**Young**, Lonnie	FS	6-1	191	6	Michigan State
62	**Zandofsky**, Mike	G	6-2	285	2	Washington
38	**Zordich**, Michael	FS	5-11	197	4	Penn State

CARDINALS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
2	Anthony **THOMPSON** *TB*	5-11, 207	**Indiana**	Holds school and career records for rushing with 5,299 yards and second on the Big 10 Conference all-time chart behind Archie Griffin . . . Holds school, conference and NCAA record with 68 TDs . . . Unanimous All-American choice and league Offensive Player-of-the-Year . . . Led the nation in rushing, setting a school season record with 1,793 yards and 24 TDs on 358 carries in 1989 . . . Returned 18 kickoffs for 394 yards and had 35 catches for 201 yards and 1 TD.
3	Ricky **PROEHL** *WR*	5-11, 181	**Wake Forest**	One of the most productive receivers in the country . . . Has 4.5 speed in the 40 . . . Vertical leaps over 34 inches . . . Ranks second on the Atlantic Coast Conference's career lists and holds the school's all-time records with 188 catches for 2,949 yards and 25 TDs . . . In 1989, led the ACC and ranked 12th in the nation with 65 receptions for 1,053 yards (16.2 avg.) and 11 TDs.
4	Travis **DAVIS** *DT*	6-2, 274	**Michigan State**	Ferocious run defender with great strength and excellent balance . . . Takes on blockers well and possesses good lateral movement . . . Ranks as one of the strongest players in the Big 10 Conference . . . Third on the school's all-time list with 24 QB sacks.
5	Larry **CENTERS** *FB*	5-11, 203	**Stephen F. Austin**	Ranks second on the school's all-time list with 2,944 yards rushing . . . Third on the SFA career receiving list with 123 catches . . . Set Lumberjack season records with 315 carries for 1,440 yards (4.6 avg.) and 11 TDs in 1989 . . . Set another school season record with 58 receptions, good for 893 yards (15.4 avg.) and 6 scores.
6	Tyrone **SHAVERS** *WR*	6-2, 205	**Lamar**	Outstanding deep threat with great size, tremendous leaping ability and blazing speed . . . Recently timed at 4.47 in the 40 . . . Caught 36 passes for 511 yards (14.2 avg.) and 6 TDs in 1989.
7	Johnny **JOHNSON** *TB*	6-2, 212	**San Jose State**	Closed out his career third on the Spartans' all-time list in receiving with 126 catches and fourth in receiving yardage with 1,567 yards . . . Holds the school all-time record with 30 TDs . . . Started the Spartans' first five games at fullback in 1989 . . . Left the team after the Cal-Long Beach contest . . . Ranked second in the country in all-purpose rushing, averaging 183.5 yards per game in 1988 . . . Set eight school records his junior campaign, including season marks for most yards rushing (1,219), touchdowns on the ground (15) and scoring (116 points).
8	Mickey **WASHINGTON** *CB*	5-10, 187	**Texas A&M**	All-American honorable mention . . . All-Southwest Conference . . . Finished with 52 tackles (34 solos), 4 sacks and 6 stops for 32 yards in losses . . . Recovered 2 fumbles and caused another . . . Also deflected 8 passes . . . Returned 7 punts for 61 yards.
9	David **BAVARO** *ILB*	6-0, 231	**Syracuse**	Hard-hitting and aggressive . . . Excels in pass coverage . . . Possesses thick legs and powerfully built arms . . . Had a great senior campaign leading the team in tackles with 121 stops (59 solos) and deflected 4 passes . . . Named to the AP All-East second team.
10	Dave **ELLE** *TE*	6-5, 246	**South Dakota**	Switched to tight end in spring 1989 to better take advantage of his great size and speed . . . Led team with 639 yards rushing.
11	Dempsey **NORMAN** *WR-RS*	5-8, 178	**St. Francis (PA)**	Found a home with the Saints after stops at Michigan State, Northeastern Illinois and Kennedy King JC . . . Holds the school career records for most catches (51), yards receiving (1,060), punt returns (37), kickoff returns (32) and kickoff return yardage (748) . . . Set season records for receptions (28 for 544 yards), kickoff returns (19 for 445 yards) and all-purpose yards (1,247).
12	Donnie **RILEY** *TB*	5-10, 195	**Central Michigan**	Earned Mid-American Conference first team honors in 1989 . . . Rushed 269 times for 1,254 yards.
12	Ken **McMICHAEL** *DB*	6-1, 210	**Oklahoma**	Switched from free safety to cornerback as a junior . . . Missed half of 1989 with knee injury . . . Recorded a career total 107 tackles with 3 interceptions.

CARDINALS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	CARDINALS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	263	329
Rushing	83	113
Passing	157	185
Penalty	22	31
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	87/220	104/238
4th Down: Made/Atts.	4/14	9/11
TOTAL NET YARDS	4641	5877
Avg. Per Game	290.1	367.3
Total Plays	986	1100
Avg. Per Play	4.7	5.3
NET YARDS RUSHING	1361	2302
Avg. Per Game	85.1	143.9
Total Rushes	407	539
NET YARDS PASSING	3280	3575
Avg. Per Game	205.0	223.4
Tackled/Yards Lost	56/379	30/219
Gross Yards	3659	3794
Attempts/Completions	523/279	531/286
Pct. of Completions	53.3	53.9
Had Intercepted	30	16
PUNTS/AVERAGE	82/43.6	76/41.5
NET PUNTING AVG.	37.6	33.8
PENALTIES/YARDS	113/856	106/916
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	24/14	18/11
TOUCHDOWNS	29	41
Rushing	10	12
Passing	17	24
Returns	2	5

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
CARDINALS	43	76	51	88	0	258
OPP. TOTAL	68	99	90	120	0	377

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Del Greco	0-0	7-7	5-6	5-11	1-2	18-26

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Ferrell	149	502	3.4	t44	6
Jordan	83	211	2.5	15	2
S. Mitchell	43	165	3.8	14	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
J. Smith	62	778	12.5	31	5
Jones	45	838	18.6	t72	3
Green	44	703	16.0	t59	7
Awalt	33	360	10.9	28	0
Sikahema	23	245	10.7	37	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
McDonald	7	170	24.3	t53	1
Mack	4	15	3.8	9	0
Downs	1	37	37.0	37	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Tupa	6	280	46.7	0	2	51	0
Camarillo	76	3298	43.4	6	21	58	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Sikahema	37	13	433	11.7	53	0
Jones	1	0	13	13.0	13	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Sikahema	43	874	20.3	52	0
Usher	17	347	20.4	33	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Hogeboom	364	204	2591	56.0	7.12	14	3.8	19	5.2	t59	40/266	69.5
Tupa	134	65	973	48.5	7.26	3	2.2	9	6.7	t77	14/94	52.2

DALLAS COWBOYS

TOUGH TIMES CONTINUE IN BIG "D"

BY DENNE H. FREEMAN

Jimmy Johnson got some encouraging words way down yonder in New Orleans during Super Bowl week from somebody who had gone from hard times to the summit of professional football.

Johnson, who had just experienced a 1-15 season in his rookie year as an NFL coach, appreciated what he heard from Bill Walsh.

Walsh, remember him, won a Super Bowl with the San Francisco 49ers two years ago; then decided to get into the broadcasting business and out of the coaching pressure cooker.

"Bill was very encouraging and told me to hang in there," Johnson said. "He told me, 'I only won two games in my first year. It takes time.'"

The advice helped Johnson put a season gone haywire in the proper light.

"I actually feel good where we are and I'm just glad we got the first year past us with some sanity left," Johnson said.

Everything changed but the name of the team on the infamous "Saturday Night Massacre," — Feb. 25, 1989.

Tom Landry, the only coach the team had known for the 29 years of its existence, was fired and eventually a dispirited club president, Tex Schramm, was to leave because of an ownership change that left him powerless.

Later, personnel director Gil Brandt, the last of the Cowboys' "Big Three," who accounted for 19 consecutive winning seasons and five Super Bowls, was sacked.

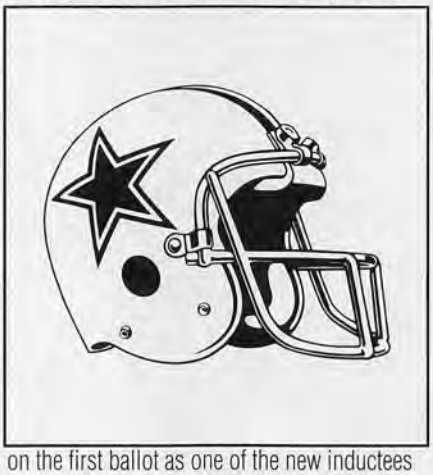
Front office staffers, secretaries and assistant coaches were released.

Veteran players such as Randy White and Danny White were encouraged to retire. Others were cut. Running back Herschel Walker, the only offensive star left, was traded.

Owner Jerry Jones had brashly predicted his good buddy and Arkansas roommate would win more games in the first half of the season than Landry had (three) in all of 1988.

Jerry found it wasn't that easy in the cannibalistic NFL. Also, Jones discovered that by firing Landry he martyred him.

Landry is more popular than ever. He has done a smash television commercial (sings in it, no less) and was recently named



on the first ballot as one of the new inductees into the Professional Football Hall of Fame.

Yes, everything has changed, including where the Cowboys will hold practice in July.

Summer camp has been moved from traditional Thousand Oaks, CA, to St. Edward's College in Austin and California Lutheran College has dunned the Cowboys for a $250,000 settlement.

"I like working out in the heat, and I think it hurt us last year because we didn't," Johnson said. "I think working in Texas will help us."

The Cowboys will scrimmage the Houston Oilers, who will work out in nearby San Marcos.

"We'll be able to get in some quality work," Johnson said.

Jones has tried to make peace with the fans and his critics.

He readily admits he made mistakes in what was the losingest season in the 30-year history of the franchise.

"I handled the Landry situation poorly," he said. "But there wasn't an easy way to handle it. Jimmy was going to be my coach."

Jones also slaps his own hand for being too bold.

"I would have never thought we would win just one game," he said. "I felt our enthusiasm could create an advantage, but I underestimated the effect that a lot of the changes we made in the early part of the season might have had on the continuity of the team.

"I was excited about being a part of the Cowboys. That excitement came out, and certainly if I look back on it, I might have hedged more."

Johnson, who had grown accustomed to the heady success of national championship teams at the University of Miami, was stunned the Cowboys didn't perform better.

"The players we have now love football and have a winning attitude," he said. "Replacing the veteran players hurt us more than we thought. We thought we'd win more games."

Johnson came aboard as coach too late last year to get into the Plan B market and hopes to bolster the Cowboys with it in 1990.

Green Bay signed 20 Plan B players last year, and it helped the Packers to their best season in a decade, just missing the playoffs.

This year, Johnson wasted no time plunging into the free agent and Plan B market.

He signed Chicago's Dennis McKinnon to give the team some much-needed speed at wide receiver, plus six other players rated as potential starters.

The Cowboys proved they wouldn't quibble about salary, either, giving McKinnon a two-year deal for $975,000.

"Jimmy Johnson and I go a long way

back since my days at Florida State, and I like his attitude," McKinnon said.

McKinnon said he saw a new bright light in playing for Johnson, saying, "I'm going to like playing for Jimmy."

And McKinnon said he likes what he has seen of quarterback Troy Aikman.

Michael Irvin is always a threat. ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

"Whatever Troy Aikman throws, I'll catch," McKinnon said. "And if I have to block, I'll block. I'm just looking to move the chains and win.

"I know you can't expect miracles to happen. Even if you go 8-8 here that would be great. Obviously, the Cowboys need help. Hopefully, I can come here and have some fun. I'm glad someone else saw there is still a lot of great years left in Dennis McKinnon."

Tony Slaton, who started 15 games at right guard for the Los Angeles Rams last year, could be moved to center with the Cowboys. Center Mark Stepnoski could be switched to guard and guard Nate Newton to tackle.

Dallas also is high on plan B guard Greg Johnson, who played for the Miami Dolphins.

Plan B signees Antonio Gibson of the Saints and James Washington of the Rams could displace starting safeties Ray Horton and Vince Albritton.

Cornerback Everson Walls, a 12-year veteran, was left unprotected. Johnson and Walls had a collision over attitude during the season. After one losing game, Walls was joking with an opposing player and it went against Johnson's grain.

Asked how he let a good guy like Walls go unprotected, Johnson said, "My relationship (with players) is one way — what can that player do to help the Dallas Cowboys?"

Linebackers Terence Cooks and Walter Johnson of New Orleans and Vinson Smith of Pittsburgh could give the Cowboys some immediate help.

"The Plan B route isn't the total answer, but this fills a lot of holes for a team like the Dallas Cowboys," Johnson said. "We still plan to build the team through the draft, but this keeps us from having to reach for players to fill certain positions in the draft. We are going to have a lot more solid talent base going into next season. "

Running backs Tommie Agee, who played for Kansas City, and Keith Jones of Cleveland, both Plan B acquisitions, will compete for starting jobs in the backfield.

Paul Palmer, who played for Dallas last year, was considered too small. Johnson was so disenchanted with him that he didn't let Palmer suit out for the last regular-season game. Palmer is gone.

Timmy Smith was one of the free agent running backs the Cowboys signed. You will recall that he set a Super Bowl rushing record for the Washington Redskins, but his production fell off and he was eventually released. The Cowboys hope the former Texas Tech standout can regain his old form.

Both wide receiver starters, Michael Irvin and Kelvin Martin, suffered knee injuries last year, and Irvin might not even be able to practice with the team until the regular season.

Johnson doesn't know whether to count on Irvin for the 1990 season.

"Doctors keep going back and forth on him," Johnson said "We hope he'll be ready."

McKinnon gives Johnson some expensive insurance at wide receiver.

"We couldn't take any chances," Johnson said. "We needed some help, and Dennis will give it to us. He can walk onto our practice field and really help us, especially with our need for an older, more experienced receiver."

Johnson said the Cowboys were playing with a short experience stick in 1989.

"I think the previous coaching staff probably did an excellent job, but I wasn't here," he said. "I think they were shorthanded like we were shorthanded. When you start looking at No. 1 draft picks, you look at the draft picks from 1980 to 1986, and those should be the ones winning games for us. Just see how many are on the club right

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
32	**Agee**, Tommie	RB	6-0	218	3	Auburn
8	**Aikman**, Troy	QB	6-4	216	2	UCLA
36	**Albritton**, Vince	S	6-2	214	7	Washington
31	**Ankrom**, Scott	DB	6-1	194	2	TCU
40	**Bates**, Bill	S	6-1	199	8	Tennessee
63	**Brinkley**, Lester	DE	6-6	270	1	Mississippi
79	**Broughton**, Willie	DT	6-5	275	4	Miami (FL)
62	**Burnice**, Karl	T	6-8	317	1	Oregon Tech
75	**Carter**, Jon	DT	6-4	273	2	Pittsburgh
72	**Cheek**, Louis	T	6-6	295	3	Texas A&M
58	**Cooks**, Terence	LB	6-0	230	2	Nicholls State
90	**Crocket**, Wills	LB	6-3	221	1	Georgia Tech
55	**Del Rio**, Jack	LB	6-4	236	6	Southern Cal
24	**Delaney**, Jarrod	WR	6-1	205	1	TCU
86	**Dixon**, James	WR	5-10	181	2	Houston
27	**Ervin**, Corris	DB	5-11	176	1	Central Florida
47	**Farris**, Ervin	RB	5-10	233	1	Texas Tech
33	**Flagler**, Terrence	RB	6-0	200	4	Clemson
85	**Folsom**, Steve	TE	6-5	240	6	Utah
38	**Francis**, Ron	CB	5-9	186	4	Baylor
63	**Franks**, Dave	G	6-4	290	1	Connecticut
21	**Gibson**, Antonio	S	6-3	204	5	Cincinnati
66	**Gogan**, Kevin	T	6-7	309	4	Washington
60	**Hamel**, Dean	DT	6-3	276	6	Tulsa
17	**Harris**, Rod	WR	5-10	183	2	Texas A&M
45	**Hendrix**, Manny	CB	5-10	186	5	Utah
97	**Henry**, Charles	TE	6-4	230	1	Miami (FL)
30	**Holt**, Issiac	CB	6-2	202	6	Alcorn State
20	**Horton**, Ray	S	5-11	187	8	Washington
99	**Howard**, David	LB	6-2	230	6	Long Beach State
88	**Irvin**, Michael	WR	6-2	202	3	Miami (FL)
77	**Jeffcoat**, Jim	DE	6-5	256	8	Arizona State
84	**Jennings**, Keith	TE	6-4	251	2	Clemson
67	**Johnson**, Greg	G	6-4	295	2	Oklahoma
49	**Johnson**, Steve	TE	6-6	245	2	Virginia Tech
91	**Johnson**, Walter	LB	6-0	240	4	Louisiana Tech
48	**Johnston**, Daryl	FB	6-2	234	2	Syracuse
46	**Jokisch**, Paul	TE	6-7	248	1	Michigan
72	**Jones**, Ed	DE	6-9	270	16	Tennessee State
31	**Jones**, Keith	RB	5-10	182	2	Nebraska

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
68	**Ker**, Crawford	G	6-3	285	6	Florida
15	**Laufenberg**, Babe	QB	6-3	203	5	Indiana
44	**Lee**, Greg	DB	6-1	204	2	Arkansas State
56	**Lockhart**, Eugene	LB	6-2	233	7	Houston
83	**Martin**, Kelvin	WR	5-9	162	4	Boston College
81	**McKinnon**, Dennis	WR	6-1	185	7	Florida State
61	**Newton**, Nate	G	6-3	318	5	Florida A&M
73	**Noonan**, Danny	DL	6-4	270	4	Nebraska
51	**Norton**, Ken	LB	6-2	234	3	UCLA
89	**Novacek**, Jay	TE	6-4	235	6	Wyoming
53	**Peterson**, Kevin	LB	6-2	227	1	Northwestern
64	**Rafferty**, Tom	C	6-3	265	15	Penn State
67	**Robinson**, Lybrant	DE	6-5	250	2	Delaware State
39	**Sargent**, Broderick	FB	5-11	220	4	Baylor
4	**Saxon**, Mike	P	6-3	198	6	San Diego State
35	**Scott**, Kevin	RB	5-9	177	3	Stanford
94	**Shannon**, Randy	LB	6-1	221	2	Miami (FL)
87	**Shepard**, Derrick	WR	5-10	187	3	Oklahoma
65	**Slaton**, Tony	C-G	6-3	280	7	Southern Cal
30	**Smith**, Tim	RB	5-11	222	3	Texas Tech
57	**Smith**, Vinson	LB	6-2	230	2	East Carolina
54	**Solomon**, Jesse	LB	6-0	235	5	Florida State
96	**Spears**, Anthony	DT	6-5	285	1	Portland State
70	**Stepnoski**, Mark	C-G	6-2	269	2	Pittsburgh
28	**Stewart**, Curtis	RB	5-11	208	1	Auburn
66	**Stubbs**, Daniel	DE	6-4	260	3	Miami (FL)
59	**Stumon**, Greg	LB	6-0	236	1	Southern Arkansas
25	**Tautalatasi**, Junior	RB	5-11	208	5	Washington
92	**Tolbert**, Tony	DE	6-6	241	2	Texas-El Paso
71	**Tulnei**, Mark	T	6-5	286	8	Hawaii
95	**Walen**, Mark	DT	6-5	267	3	UCLA
3	**Walsh**, Steve	QB	6-2	200	2	Miami (FL)
37	**Washington**, James	S	6-1	196	3	UCLA
78	**Widell**, Dave	T	6-6	292	3	Boston College
23	**Williams**, Mike	WR	5-10	177	1	Northwestern
23	**Williams**, Robert	CB	5-10	184	4	Baylor
98	**Willis**, Mitch	DL	6-8	285	5	Southern Methodist
6	**Zendejas**, Luis	K	5-9	179	4	Arizona State
76	**Zimmerman**, Jeff	G	6-3	313	4	Florida

COWBOYS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Emmitt **SMITH** *HB*	5-10, 201	**Florida**	Regarded by many as the most gifted pure running back since Herschel Walker . . . Went over the 1,000 yard mark in the seventh game of the 1987 season . . . Rushed for over 2,000 yards by the fifth game of his sophomore year, topped only by Herschel who did it by the third game . . . Holds 31 school season records, eight single game marks and 19 career records . . . Ranks first on the Gators' all-time list in rushing (3,928 Yards), rushing TDs (36) and total TDs (37) . . . Has 4.54 speed in the 40 . . . Unanimous All-Southeastern Conference pick . . . Led the SEC and ranked third in the nation in rushing, averaging 145.4 yards per game.
2	Alexander **WRIGHT** *WR*	5-11, 184	**Auburn**	One of the best kept secrets in college football . . . 4.4 speed in the 40 and 38-inch vertical leap . . . Late bloomer who did not go out for football until his senior year of high school . . . An All-American sprinter on the track team . . . Led the team with 30 receptions for 714 yards (23.8 avg.) and 6 TDs . . . Returned 5 kickoffs for 180 yards (36.0 avg.) . . . Opened the season with a bang, setting Tiger and conference game records with 263 yards on 5 receptions with TD grabs of 78, 73, 60 and 41 yards . . . Named SEC Offensive Player-of-the-Week after catching 7 passes for 143 yards in a 30-20 beating of Alabama in the season finale.
3	Jimmie **JONES** *DT*	6-4, 261	**Miami (FL)**	Extremely physical and aggressive run defender . . . Bench presses over 475 pounds . . . Has 4.77 speed in the 40 . . . Recorded 20 tackles with 4 sacks and 6 stops for 22 yards in losses . . . Credited with 7 quarterback pressures.
9	Kenneth **GANT** *CB*	5-11, 178	**Albany State (GA)**	Earned second team All-Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 1989 . . . Led team in interceptions and tied for third in SIAC with five interceptions in 1989 . . . Also had 55 tackles, 3 sacks, 1 fumble recovery and 6 passes broken up . . . Finished collegiate career with 14 interceptions.
11	Dave **HARPER** *LB*	6-1, 220	**Humboldt State**	Probably the best athlete on the team . . . An intense player who is exciting to watch . . . All-NCAC second team pick in 1988.

now. The 1980-86 draft picks are not to be found."

There are a million question marks for the 1990 Cowboys, including who will be in charge of the offense – Aikman, for all his talent, hasn't won an NFL game yet.

Quarterback coach Jerry Rhome left for the Phoenix Cardinals and Johnson has decided to take charge of the offense and Aikman.

Aikman, for his part, figured he learned a lot in his rookie season, in which he was knocked out of action against the Cardinals.

"I think I will be a lot more productive this year," said Aikman, whose interceptions tripled his touchdown passes. "I know more what we are trying to accomplish."

Aikman could again have Steve Walsh as quarterback company.

As of the spring workouts, the Cowboys were trying to trade Walsh, a former No. 1 pick in the supplemental draft.

If not, they'll have to eat his $1 million–a–year salary again while he rides the bench behind Aikman in 1990.

"We believe Steve Walsh will become a top -'of-' the-'line NFL quarterback," said Johnson. "If not with another team, then with us."

However, Walsh doesn't have Aikman's arm strength and Johnson is committed to taking the Cowboys into 1990 with the former UCLA gunner as his top quarterback.

"We feel very excited about Troy's future and the future of this franchise," Johnson said.

He will be more interested in the offense this year. He will have headphones and suggest plays. Last year, Johnson was locked in on the defense.

Johnson will coordinate with David Shula, who drew his share of criticism last year for the Cowboys' weak offensive showing.

"I want to stay plugged into the offense more," Johnson said. "The defense is in fine hands with Dave Wannstedt. Our defense improved rapidly, and we now need that kind of production out of our offense."

He said, "so many people make a big to-do about the NFL experience. We had more NFL experience on offense than on defense last year, but they weren't all on the same page. The chemistry wasn't there. They weren't all headed in the same direction."

So now Johnson is the club's head coach, general manager, offensive coordinator (overseer) and in charge of all player personnel moves.

"I'm getting things lined up similar to what I did after my first year at Miami," Johnson said, "The first year is for evaluation."

Johnson predicted, "we'll get the job done, and it'll happen a lot sooner than a lot of people expect."

He added, "I know I like our position because if what I'm anticipating and expecting comes true, and we can make significant improvement this year with a young football team and a talented quarterback (Aikman) and a lot of draft picks in the future, I think the good things can happen. I think the biggest jump is that we have to make significant improvement record-wise from a year ago. "

Meanwhile, Jones is still trying to convince the fans and the media to give him and his former Arkansas Razorback teammate a chance.

When you visit Jones' office (formerly Schramm's), the first thing you notice is the Cowboys' two Super Bowl championship trophies.

A long learning season after the "Saturday Night Massacre," the Cowboys still have a long way to go before they earn a third championship trophy.❑

Troy Aikman is Dallas' quarterback of the future.
ROBERT BECK / ALLSPORT

COWBOYS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	COWBOYS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	246	331
Rushing	78	116
Passing	145	183
Penalty	23	22
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	62/187	106/229
4th Down: Made/Atts.	8/19	7/12
TOTAL NET YARDS	4294	5556
Avg. Per Game	268.4	347.3
Total Plays	898	1060
Avg. Per Play	4.8	5.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	1409	1991
Avg. Per Game	88.1	124.4
Total Rushes	355	543
NET YARDS PASSING	2885	3565
Avg. Per Game	180.3	222.8
Tackled/Yards Lost	30/239	29/183
Gross Yards	3124	3748
Attempts/Completions	513/266	488/301
Pct. of Completions	52.0	61.7
Had Intercepted	27	7
PUNTS/AVERAGE	82/39.8	73/39.9
NET PUNTING AVG.	34.2	35.3
PENALTIES/YARDS	99/766	102/723
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	29/15	22/10
TOUCHDOWNS	25	44
Rushing	7	17
Passing	14	21
Returns	4	6

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
COWBOYS	47	70	35	52	0	204
OPP. TOTAL	84	118	90	101	0	393

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Zendejas	0-0	1-1	1-1	3-5	0-2	5-9
Ruzek	1-1	1-1	2-4	1-4	0-1	5-11

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Palmer	112	446	4.0	t63	2
Aikman	38	302	7.9	25	0
Walker	81	246	3.0	t20	2

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Martin	46	644	14.0	46	2
Folsom	28	265	9.5	26	2
Irvin	26	378	14.5	t65	2
Dixon	24	477	19.9	t75	2
Walker	22	261	11.9	52	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Lockhart	2	14	7.0	12	0
Bates	1	18	18.0	18	0
Albritton	1	3	3.0	3	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Saxon	79	3233	40.9	6	18	56	2
Ruzek	1	28	28.0	0	0	28	0

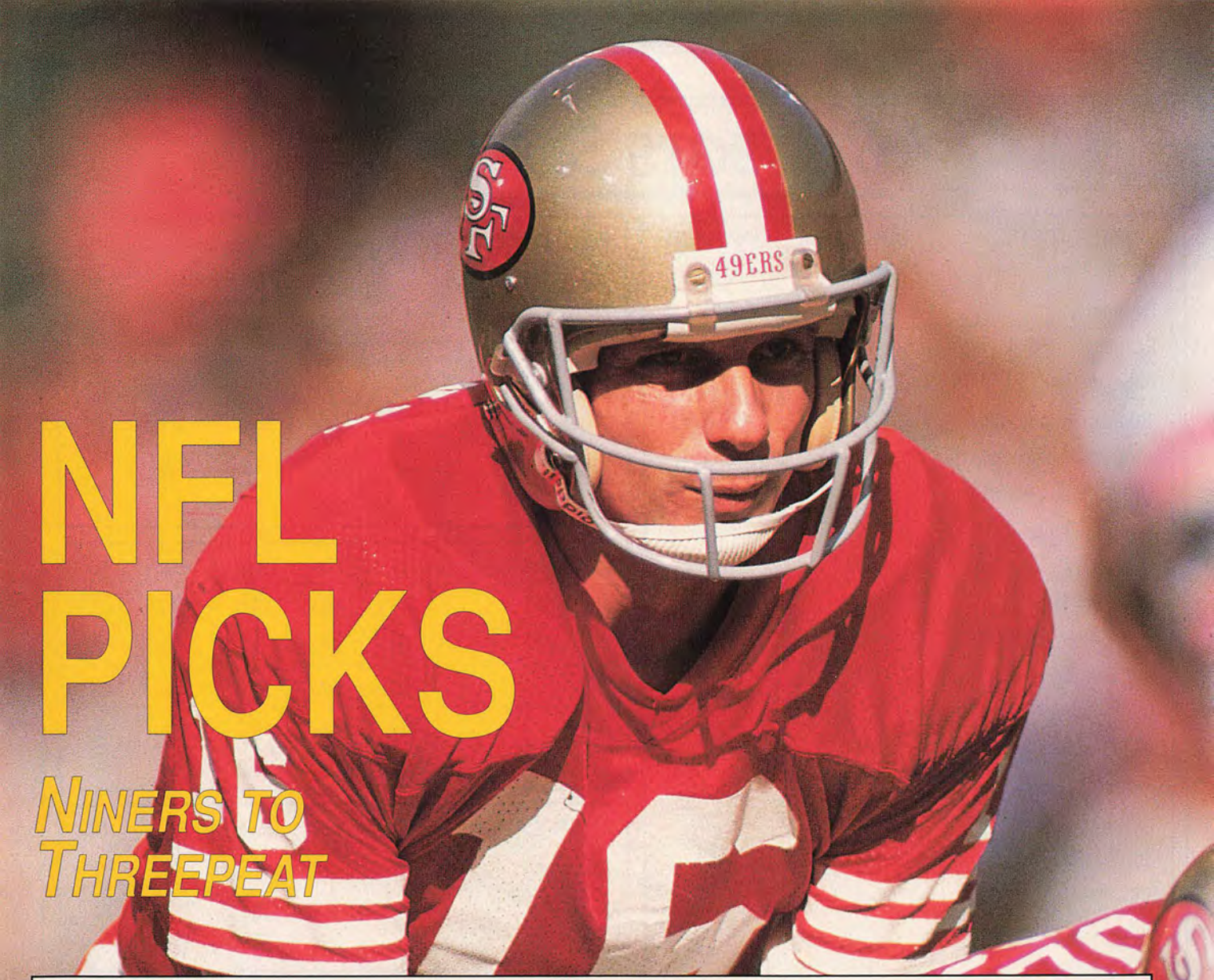
PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Shepard	24	1	160	6.7	17	0
Martin	4	5	32	8.0	12	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Dixon	47	1181	25.1	t97	1
Shepard	19	394	20.7	32	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Aikman	293	155	1749	52.9	5.97	9	3.1	18	6.1	t75	19/155	55.7
Walsh	219	110	1371	50.2	6.26	5	2.3	9	4.1	46	11/84	60.5

NFL PICKS

NINERS TO THREEPEAT



How boring!

If you want upstarts, winning divisions, miracle teams shocking everyone in the conference and powerhouses falling like the Iron Curtain, don't look to the NFL.

All the league will provide in 1990 is status quo.

The three division winners from the NFC last year — the 49ers, Vikings and Giants — again will ease home on top. The Rams, who used a three-game road winning streak to get to the NFC title game last season, will be a wild card again.

The only changes to look for in the NFC will be the Redskins flip-flopping with the Eagles to finish second in the East and gain a wild-card entry. And, with an additional wild-card spot available, the Saints will march into the playoffs.

The AFC will have something of a changing of the guard at the top of the Central. It won't be anything radical. Cincinnati, which won the conference title in 1988, will take the division again after a detour in '89.

SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

AFC CHAMPS: DENVER BRONCOS

Otherwise, look for Buffalo in the easy East, Denver in the weak West, with Kansas City, Houston and Cleveland grabbing the wild cards.

Had the NFL allowed three wild cards to make the 1989 playoffs, Green Bay would have been in, as would Kansas City.

While the Chiefs seem headed for continued success, the Packers — last season's most exciting bunch, who figure to be just as entertaining this year — will slip.

We see the run-and-shoot Lions overtaking them and the Bears returning to respectability, if not contention, and finishing in front of the Pack.

OTTO GREULE JR. / ALLSPORT

Dressed only in a jumpsuit and a pair of orange sneakers. He didn't remember a thing.

He knew he was in trouble when he returned to his office and found a large gerbil exercise wheel where the table had been.

He immediately got on and started running. There was no way Neil Webster could avoid a challenge.

To say that his life had become more a matter of motion than progress was an understatement. What really astonished him, however was the degree to which this triumph of form over function had permeated all areas of his company.

As he walked the halls (they were circular, of course) he noticed that everyone's office had some sort of device. Something similar to the gerbil wheel in his office. And each device was connected to a large machine, so that everyone's lack of progress could be carefully monitored.

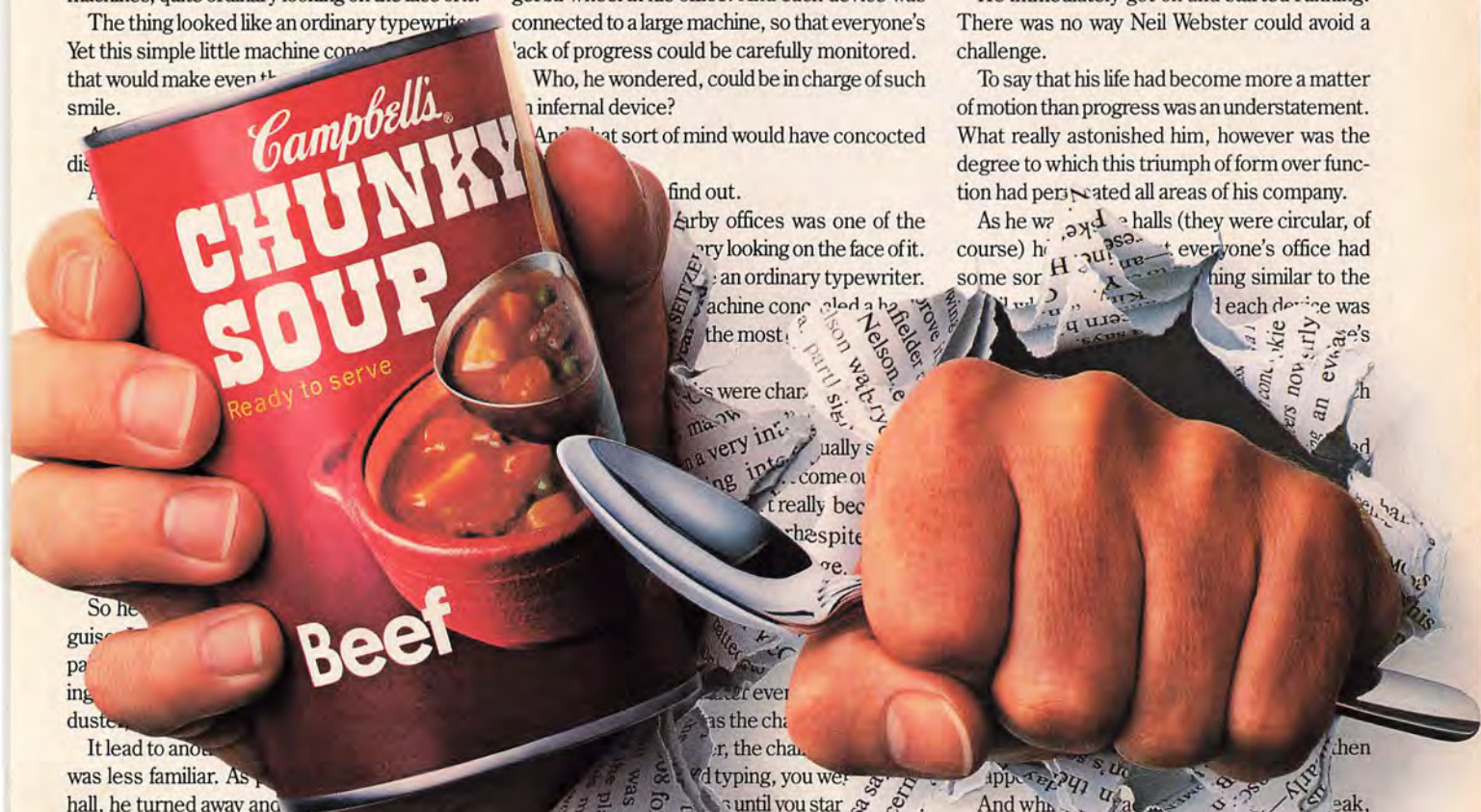
Who, he wondered, could be in charge of such an infernal device?

And what sort of mind would have concocted such a thing?

He resolved to find out.

In one of the nearby offices was one of the machines, quite ordinary looking on the face of it.

The thing looked like an ordinary typewriter. Yet this simple little machine conc[e]aled a ha[r]dly that would make even th[e] most [s]mile.



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It lead to ano[t]her was less familiar. As [h]e hall, he turned away and

So far so good.

Eventually he came to [a] large office. In the office [t]here was a thin, dark-haired man. There [w]as a few chairs, and a blackboard.

The man s[a]t at a sort of co[n]trol monitor which displayed en[d]less facts and [f]igures. As far as he could tell, they [m]ade no sense at all.

But interesti[n]gly enough, when one of the displays stopped [m]oving, the man gleefully pushed a button on his control panel and sent an electrical shock to the offending source. Whatever motion, however futile, immediately resumed.

As he pondered how to let people know, how indeed to break this vicious cycle, he heard a door close behind him.

He was caught.

Knowing that it would be his career if he were found out, he rushed to the window and jumped.

He felt the air rush by. Then he blacked out.

He landed outside his window, dressed only in a jumpsuit and a pair of orange sneakers. He didn't remember a thing. . .

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He decided to trace the wire back to its source.

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The thing looked like an ordinary typewriter. Yet this simple little machine conc[e]aled a ha[r]dly that would make even th[e] most [s]mile.

So he was [w]ere char[a]cters in his novels. [H]e was very in[t]elligent, usually s[u]ccessful, come ou[t] really bec[o]me rhaspite[r], the cha[r]acter ever[y] as the cha[r]acter, the cha[r]acter typing, you we[r]e until you star[t] tunity to find out who

It lead to ano[t]her was less familiar. As [h]e hall, he turned away and

So far so good.

Eventually he came to [a] large office. In the office [t]here was a thin, dark-haired man. There [w]as a few chairs, and a blackboard.

The man s[a]t at a sort of co[n]trol monitor which displayed en[d]less facts and [f]igures. As far as he could tell, they [m]ade no sense at all.

But interesti[n]gly enough, when one of the displays stopped [m]oving, the man gleefully pushed a button on his control panel and sent an electrical shock to the offending source. Whatever motion, however futile, immediately resumed.

As he pondered how to let people know, how indeed to break this vicious cycle, he heard a door close behind him.

He was caught.

Knowing that it would be his career if he were found out, he rushed to the window and jumped.

He felt the air rush by. Then he blacked out.

He landed outside his window, dressed only in a jumpsuit and a pair of orange sneakers. He didn't remember a thing. . .

He knew he was in trouble when he returned to his office and found a large gerbil exercise wheel where the table had been.

He immediately got on and started running. There was no way Neil Webster could avoid a challenge.

To say that his life had become more a matter of motion than progress was an understatement. What really astonished him, however was the degree to which this triumph of form over function had permeated all areas of his company.

As he walked the halls (they were circular, of course) he noticed that everyone's office had some sort of device. Something similar to the gerbil wheel in his office. And each device

LINDY'S ALL-PRO TEAM

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OFFENSE

WR	Jerry Rice	49ers
	Anthony Carter	Vikings
TE	Keith Jackson	Eagles
T	Anthony Munoz	Bengals
	Gary Zimmerman	Vikings
G	Bill Fralic	Falcons
	Mike Munchak	Oilers
C	Ray Donaldson	Colts
QB	Joe Montana	49ers
RB	Eric Dickerson	Colts
	Roger Craig	49ers
PK	Morten Andersen	Saints

DEFENSE

E	Reggie White	Eagles
NT	Michael Carter	49ers
E	Keith Millard	Vikings
OLB	Lawrence Taylor	Giants
	Tim Harris	Packers
ILB	Mike Singletary	Bears
	Karl Mecklenburg	Broncos
CB	Eric Allen	Eagles
	Albert Lewis	Chiefs
SS	Dave Duerson	Bears
FS	Ronnie Lott	49ers
P	Jim Arnold	Lions

At the other end of the standings, some recent familiar occupants will be back to be trod upon by the residents of the high-rent districts. Look for the Falcons, who are improving, and the Cardinals and Bucs, who are not, to vie for the top draft pick, along with the Cowboys, of course.

Dallas will have a different look, if not a much different outlook.

The AFC contenders for the bottom of the barrel are the Jets, Patriots and Colts, all out of the East.

NFC WEST

Now that the San Francisco 49ers have established themselves as one of the great teams of all time and the equal of the Pittsburgh Steelers in the era of the Super Bowl, what's left?

Another championship, of course. An unprecedented fifth Super Bowl.

All the elements are there, from superstars Joe Montana, Jerry Rice, Roger Craig, Ronnie Lott and Michael Carter, to plain old stars like Tom Rathman, John Taylor, Charles Haley and Chet Brooks. The coaching staff is as solid as ever and owner Eddie DeBartolo, Jr. knows how to make his players happy.

The Rams were a happy bunch last season as they closed the gap on San Francisco and created a bit of a gap between themselves and the rest of the NFC. The Jim Everett-to-Henry Ellard or Flipper Anderson combo is as dangerous as any in the league. The defense makes big plays, too.

New Orleans needs more consistency, which could come from better health. The defense is tough but requires more help from an offense that will be turned over to quarterback John Fourcade, and Morten Andersen has to return to All-Pro kicking form.

Atlanta has no shot at a winning record, but the Falcons won't be hopeless under Jerry Glanville. Give him a couple of years to rebuild — a decent defense gives him a head start.

NFC CENTRAL

With the demise of the Bears, the Vikings are the only choice. Talent-wise, there should be no question. Any team with killers such as Keith Millard, Chris Doleman, Joey Browner and Carl Lee on defense; Herschel Walker, Anthony Carter and Gary Zimmerman on offense should be a favorite.

But the Vikes lack character. They didn't win a big game outside the division last season and split their key Central contests with Chicago and Green Bay.

The Lions scared a lot of people late last season as they began to understand the run-and-shoot. With the superb Barry Sanders to carry the ball and a stable of fine receivers to catch it, Detroit will be tough, particularly if Rodney Peete stays healthy enough to run the attack. The defense is OK up front, needs upgrading in the secondary.

Watching the Bears was painful last year for Mike Ditka and everyone else in Chicago. It will be less depressing in 1990, but the Bears need more variety on offense and absolutely must have an effective Dan Hampton on defense.

The Packers benefited from a fifth-place schedule and Plan B last year. They have an innovative attack, led by a gutsy quarterback, Don Majkowski, and All-Pro receiver Sterling Sharpe. But they are thin on both lines and have a questionable running game and secondary.

Tampa Bay, like Atlanta, is a lock for last place. What has Ray Perkins done to improve this team?

NFC EAST

Sure, they are getting old in key spots. Yes, important players such as Mark Bavaro, Phil Simms, Eric Dorsey and even Lawrence Taylor have been victimized by injuries.

Still, the Giants have enough to repeat, particularly if they can squeeze another pro-

ductive season from Ottis Anderson at halfback. The Giants will win with defense, however, and their linebacking is superb.

Washington came on after it was out of playoff contention last season. The Skins never should have fallen out so fast, and they won't this year. Joe Gibbs should settle on Mark Rypien as quarterback and make use of the best trio of receivers in football, then concentrate on upgrading the linebacking and defensive backs.

Big-play performers such as Reggie White, Clyde Simmons and Eric Allen on defense, Randall Cunningham, Keith Jackson and Mike Quick on offense won't be enough to keep the Eagles in the playoffs. Despite what Buddy Ryan says, this team has too many holes.

So do the Cardinals, who may have even more empty spots in the stands as they continue to slide. If things get bad enough — it could if recent draft choices don't come on — the Cardinals might get passed by . . .

Dallas will have more than a full recruiting class worth of new faces. Jimmy Johnson will mold this team into the shape he wants, but it will take time. He will, eventually, have a winner, but not this soon.

AFC WEST

For those of you who lie awake at the thought of the Broncos returning to lose yet another Super Bowl ... well, your worst nightmare is about to come true.

It might hurt you more to read this than for us to write it, but Denver has the best team in the AFC. Good enough to win the Super Bowl? Come on.

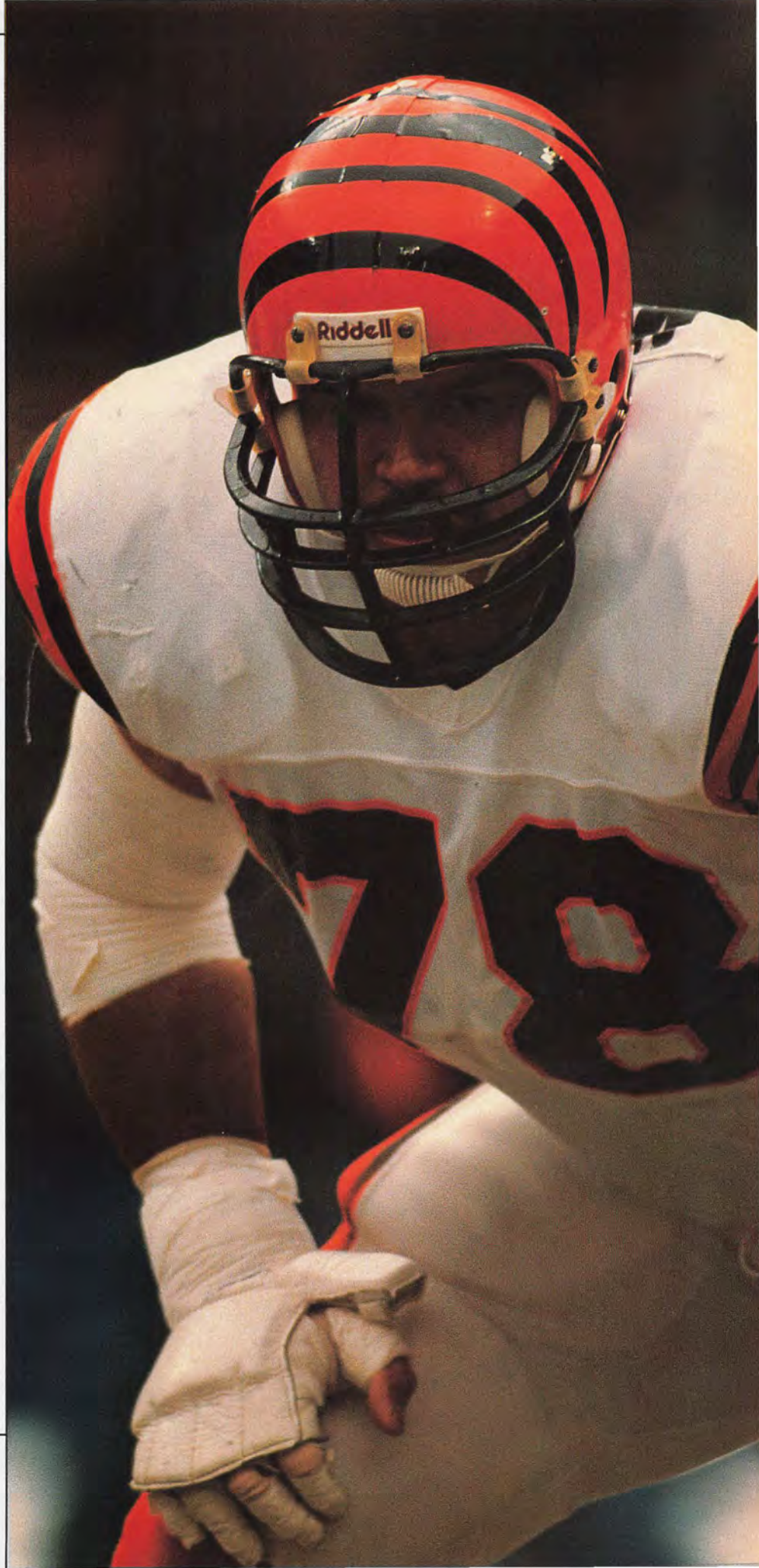
But certainly good enough to get there, particularly if John Elway has a good season, which he didn't last season, even though the Broncos ran away with the West last year.

In the AFC, Denver has a good enough defense, running game and it has the big weapon in No. 7 Elway.

The Chiefs, in their second year under Marty Schottenheimer, will continue to ram the ball with Christian Okoye and take it away with a ballhawking defense led by Derrick Thomas, Dino Hackett and that great secondary.

The Raiders have great receivers but only a mediocre quarterback and an inconsistent offensive line. The defense is no longer dominant. But you can go a long way on Bo Jackson's shoulders.

San Diego's defense might be the best in the conference this year, which seems absurd when you look back at the Chargers of the 1980s. Leslie O'Neal, Lee Williams and Billy Ray Smith are the stars. Unfortunately, the offense isn't nearly as



Anthony Munoz puts All-Pro beef in the Bengals offensive line.
PETE J. GROH

LINDY'S ALL-PRO HONORABLE MENTION

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Atlanta	Mike Kenn / Chris Miller / Tony Casillas / Jesse Tuggle / Shawn Collins
Buffalo	Shane Conlan / Kent Hull / Jim Ritcher Pete Metzelaars
Chicago	Neal Anderson / Jay Hilgenberg / Steve McMichael / Richard Dent / Donnell Woolford
Cincinnati	Tim Krumrie / Boomer Esiason
Cleveland	Bernie Kosar / Frank Minnifield Hanford Dixon / Dan Fike
Dallas	Dennis McKinnon / Eugene Lockhart
Denver	Keith Bishop / Rulon Jones / Karl Mecklenburg
Detroit	Barry Sanders / Chris Spielman / Jerry Hall / Richard Johnson / Keith Ferguson / Ed Murray
Green Bay	Sterling Sharpe / Brian Noble
Houston	Alonzo Highsmith/Warren Moon Ray Childress
Indianapolis	Duane Bickett / Ron Solt
Kansas City	Deron Cherry
L.A. Raiders	Vann McElroy / Howie Long / Stacey Toran
L.A. Rams	Jim Everett / Henry Ellard / Pete Holohan / Jackie Slater / Kevin Greene / Jerry Gray / Flipper Anderson / Doug Smith / Tom Newberry
Miami	Mark Clayton / Dan Marino
Minnesota	Herschel Walker / Steve Jordan / Chris Doleman Scott Studwell / Carl Lee / Joey Browner
New England	John Stephens / Garin Veris / Andre Tippett
New Orleans	Dalton Hilliard / Pat Swilling / Vaughan Johnson / Sam Mills
N.Y. Giants	Phil Simms / Mark Bavaro / Carl Banks
N.Y.Jets	Al Toon / Freeman McNeil
Philadelphia	Randall Cunningham / Mike Quick/ Ron Solt/ Clyde Simmons / Jerome Brown / Mike Pitts
Pittsburgh	Thomas Everett / Gary Anderson
Phoenix	Robert Awalt / Freddie Joe Nunn / Ken Harvey / Tim McDonald / J.T. Smith / Luis Sharpe
San Diego	Billy Ray Smith / Gary Anderson / Leslie O'Neal
San Francisco	Charles Haley / Michael Walter / John Taylor / Guy McIntyre / Harris Barton / Pierce Holt
Seattle	Dave Krieg
Tampa Bay	Mark Carrier / Paul Gruber / Randy Grimes / Ervin Randle / Rueben Davis
Washington	Art Monk / Gary Clark/ Ricky Sanders / Jim Lachey / Mark Rypien/ Wilber Marshall / Chip Lohmiller / Ralf Mojsiejenko

good, although Anthony Miller is going to be a great receiver.

Seattle has to rebuild, which it realizes. Why else would Curt Warner be allowed to leave under Plan B?

AFC CENTRAL

In the only division in the league where any member could finish anywhere, the Central's best team is the Bengals.

Or is it the Browns? The Oilers? The Steelers?

Cincinnati nearly won the Super Bowl two years ago, then fell flat when Ickey Woods was lost for the 1989 season. With a healthy Woods, the attack can be unstoppable, on the ground and in the air. Boomer Esiason, Eddie Brown, Rodney Holman, James Brooks and Tim McGee form a potent offense helped by a solid line. The Bengals' shortcomings are on defense, particularly at linebacker. But the secondary is superb, and Jim Skow is vastly underrated on the line.

The Oilers have enough talent to win the division. Of course, that was the situation the last two seasons and all they managed were wild-card slots. With Jerry Glanville gone, the team's psyche could be improved. Warren Moon had a super year and now gets to try the run-and-shoot under Jack Pardee.

Cleveland went after more veterans, still convinced it is close to a championship. The Browns might be, but Bernie Kosar must stay healthy. They should be good enough to hold off ...

The Steelers, who were the surprise team of the conference in '89. After beginning the season so shabbily, Pittsburgh wound up in the playoffs with a late surge and almost got into the AFC championship game. There is no Steel Curtain here, but the defense is improving. The offense is so-so.

AFC EAST

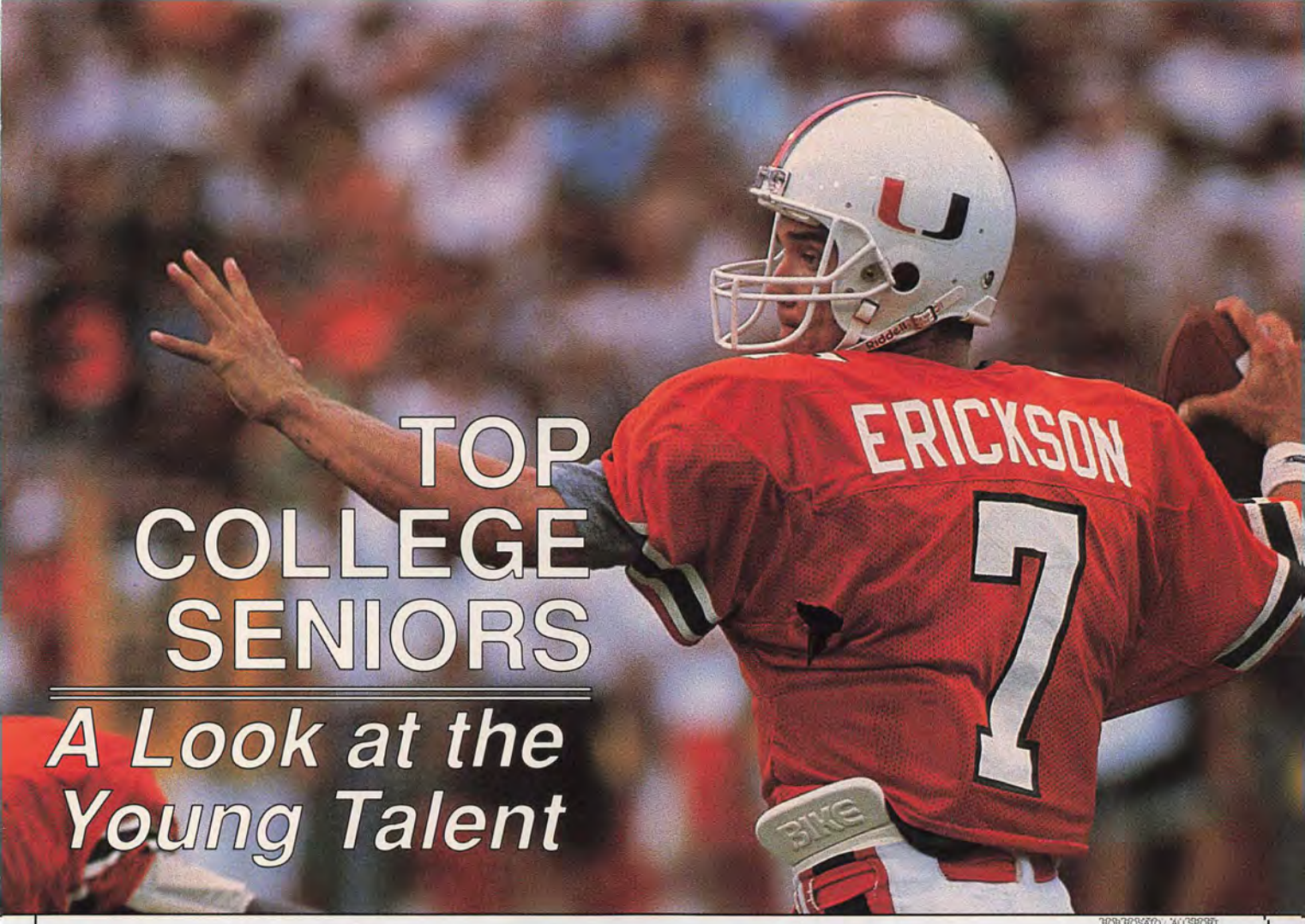
No team should have as easy a time in winning its division as the Bills. They had matters clinched with a month to go in 1988. Only their own internal troubles kept them from running away last year.

With Jim Kelly, Thurman Thomas, Andre Reed, Scott Norwood and a solid line, the offense is fine. The defense will carry the Bills, though, and they need more consistently superb outings from Bruce Smith and Cornelius Bennett. They should get them.

Trouble might be brewing in Miami, just when the Dolphins are improving. They have a semblance of a defense now and could get a running game out of Sammie Smith. But if Dan Marino truly can't coexist with Don Shula anymore, forget about Miami going anywhere.

Indianapolis had even more turmoil revolving around its superstar, Eric Dickerson. The Colts have a nice defense and might even have a decent passing game with a healthy Chris Chandler or Jack Trudeau or Jeff George throwing to Billy Brooks.

New England and New York have age-old problems. Both have new coaching staffs. Neither has a chance to contend.❑



TOP COLLEGE SENIORS

A Look at the Young Talent

BOB ROSATO / ALLSPORT

By Larry Felser

You know how the Florida citrus crop is depleted when a heavy winter frost strikes, leaving ice on the branches of the orange trees and snow on the grapefruit?

That's how depleted the pro football prospect crop, or at least its premium portion, appears for 1990.

The pros salivated when they learned that stars such as Illinois quarterback Jeff George, Alabama linebacker Keith McCants, Syracuse wide receiver Rob Moore, Southern California linebacker Junior Seau and the reigning Heisman Trophy winner, Houston quarterback Andre Ware, would pass up their final season of college football. The addition of these stars and other good players created one of the most bountiful NFL drafts in years.

With all those players turned pro, is there any chance 1990 will produce a decent crop of seniors?

"The class that will make up the 1991 draft will offer little unless underclassmen (leave school to) increase the talent pool," says Gil Brandt, the ex-Cowboys personnel chief, who remains close to the talent scene.

There are others who disagree. Like many crops, they say, football talent seems to regenerate.

Consider the first serious defection of underclassmen a year ago. Steve Walsh lost only one game as a college quarterback when he departed from the University of Miami a season early and was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys.

With Craig Erickson succeeding Walsh at quarterback, the Hurricanes won the national championship. Erickson, who should be near the top of this year's senior prospects, probably is a better pro prospect than Walsh.

Alabama followers fretted when running back Bobby Humphrey left school and signed with the Denver Broncos, but Humphrey was quickly forgotten when Siran Stacy helped the Tide finish far better than the preseason forecasters said it would.

The same thing could happen at other schools this season.

Major Harris took West Virginia to unprecedented heights in three seasons as the starting quarterback, but when Harris decided to leave school last winter, Coach Don Nehlen had Greg Jones ready. Jones, a transfer from Miami, is a pocket-style passer for whom the Mountaineers will adjust their offense.

Two years ago, when wide receiver Tommy Kane left Syracuse early to become a Seattle Seahawk, he was replaced by Rob Moore, who became an All-American. Moore graduated in May, passing up his final year of eligibility, and now he is to be replaced by Notre Dame transfer Rob Carpenter.

"Coach Mac (Dick MacPherson) uses an expression when this happens," says Moore. "He says, 'The king is dead; long live the king.' I took over from Tommy and now Bobby will take over from me."

Outside linebacker Junior Seau enthralled the pro scouts, so he skipped his remaining eligibility at Southern California. But Seau had trouble breaking into the start-

ing lineup when Craig Hartsuyker was healthy. Hartsuyker returns this season, as does Scott Ross, twice an All-Pac-10 inside linebacker whom the Trojans tout as a Butkus Award candidate.

"There will be plenty of talent," says Chuck Knox, head coach of the Seattle Seahawks. "There is always plenty of talent."

The early favorite to become the first player selected in the 1991 draft is Florida's giant outside linebacker, Huey Richardson, whom the pros would have made an early first-round choice this year had Richardson elected to leave school.

The pros admire Richardson's pass-rushing ability and pursuit to the ball, as well as his intelligence. Some of them see a comparison between Huey and Chris Doleman, the Vikings' defensive end, as long as Richardson continues to get bigger and stronger.

Many pros feel Richardson did the smart thing by staying in school. Some of the players who rejected their remaining eligibility to enter the draft are not considered fully prepared. This may include George, who has outstanding skills but, in the opinion of one top scout, "Another year of college football might have provided the maturity he needs."

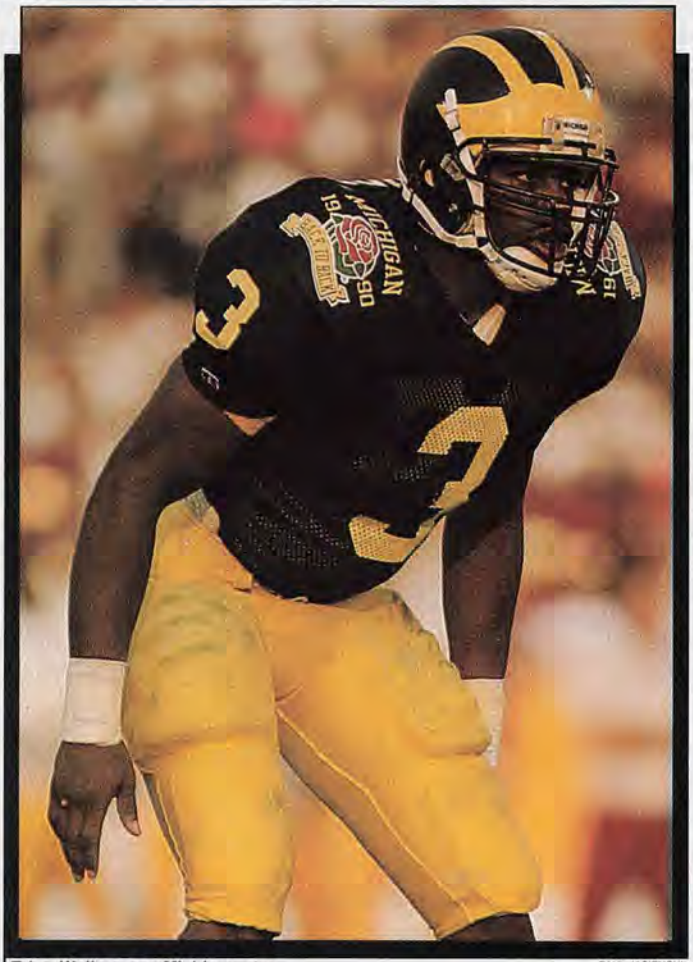
There was little doubt that if John Flannery of Syracuse had chosen to come into the draft he would have been the first center selected. Flannery stayed with the Orange and should be one of the top offensive lineman in college football this season.

This year's crop of offensive linemen should be, in fact, better than what was available in the last draft. The best players should include tackles Stacy Long of Clemson, Michigan's monster-sized Greg Skrepenak and Terrill Chatman of Alabama, as well as guards Joe Garten of Colorado and Dean Dingman of Michigan.

There are better tight ends available to the pros than there were a year ago. Chris Smith of Brigham Young, Lamonde Russell of Alabama and Tim Bruton of Missouri all rate highly.

All-American Todd Lyght of Notre Dame likely would have been the first cornerback chosen had he entered the draft early, so the natural expectation is that he will be the premier player at that position this season.

Notre Dame should have a number of highly regarded pro prospects again. Chris Zorich, the Irish All-American nose tackle, seems a natural for the NFL, although he has two years of eligibility remaining. Ricky Watters, who played running back for Lou Holtz as a junior, interests the pros more as a wide receiver and return man. Watters played wide receiver as a sophomore. Two Irish stars return from the ineligible list and onto the scouts' priority list. Mike Stonebreaker was a 1988 All-American linebacker. That same year, Tony Brooks played on a level with ex-teammate Anthony Johnson, one of the best fullbacks in the 1989 draft.



Tripp Welborne, a Michigan star. PAUL JASIENSKI

Miami will have a slew of prospects, including Erickson, receiver-return ace Wesley Carroll, defensive linemen Russell Maryland and Shane Curry as well as linebacker Maurice Crum.

Alabama is another team with many prospects, headed by Stacy, Russell, Chatman and place-kicker Philip Doyle.

Right now, Erickson seems to stand alone among the senior quarterbacks, but Gary Hollingsworth of Alabama came fast a year ago and Bill Musgrave of Oregon has the numbers.

Dan McGwire first attracted attention as a freshman quarterback at Iowa. Mostly it was for his height, 6'8", and the fact that he is the brother of Mark, the Oakland A's slugger. After Dan transferred to San Diego State, he attracted more attention because of his passing skills.

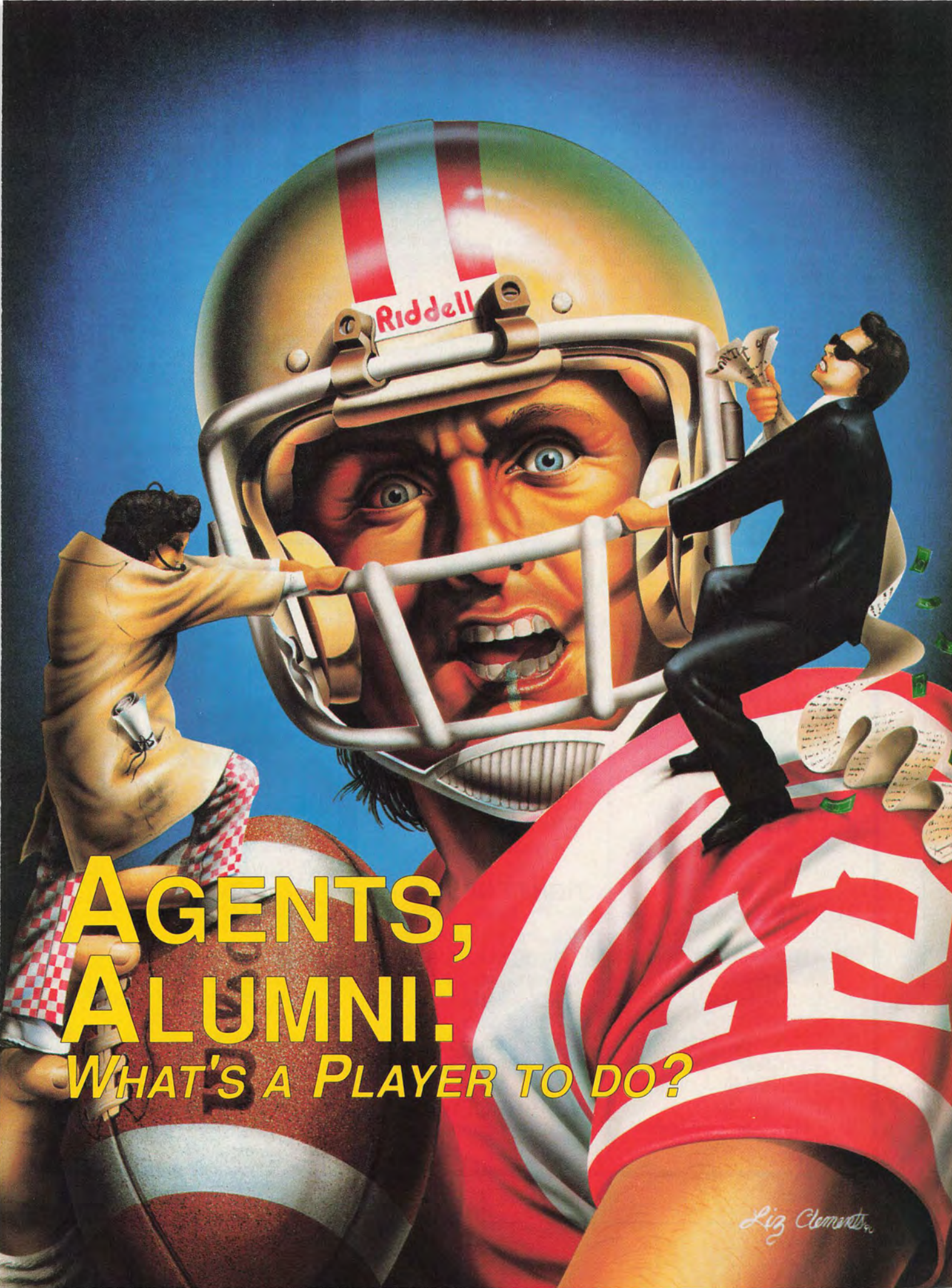
If their injuries heal well, running backs Tony Boles of Michigan and especially Darren Lewis of Texas A&M could rank right behind Stacy. Iowa State coach Jim Walden swears that Blaise Bryant of his team will compete for the Heisman Trophy, and the pros respect that. Chuck Weatherspoon of Houston's run-and-gun offense is intriguing.

Aaron Craver of Fresno State is another back who could have come into the 1990 draft but stayed in school instead. The pros think he made a wise decision. The extra experience should make him a higher quality player for the '91 draft.

Other than Carroll and Carpenter, the wide receiver list includes speedy Emmanuel Hazard, Andre Ware's old collaborator at Houston, as well as versatile Matt Bellini from Brigham Young's sophisticated passing game. Richard Buchanan had a big junior season despite Northwestern's usual struggle in the Big 10.

Colorado has two interesting defensive ends, Alfred Williams and Kanavis McGhee, who probably will be used as linebackers in the pros. Williams stands 6'6" and, if he can put on 20 or 25 pounds, he might be better suited as an end or a combination end-linebacker in the NFL.

If Russell Maryland had passed on his final year at Miami, he probably would have been a high-round draft choice on his pass-rush skills alone. David Rocker's brother, Tracy, was undervalued by the pros last year and ended up being a steal for the Washington Redskins. David, a three-year starter for Auburn, is unlikely to be the victim of



AGENTS, ALUMNI:
WHAT'S A PLAYER TO DO?

the same sort of mistake.

Randy Holleran of Kentucky may push into the top level of linebackers with Richardson, Crum, Ross, Hartsuyker and Stonebreaker.

Cornelius Price of Houston, who tied for the national interception championship with 12, two of which he returned for touchdowns, rates with Lyght as a cornerback before his late entry into the 1990 draft. Dexter Davis of Clemson and Richard Fain of Florida are near that category, too.

All-American Tripp Welborne of Michigan, Nathan LaDuke of Arizona State and Louis Riddick, a heavy contributor at Pitt since his freshman year, are among the best safeties. Free safety Todd Sandroni of Ole Miss led the Southeastern Conference in interceptions as a freshman and sophomore. Bob Navarro of Eastern Michigan tied Price for the national interception title a year ago.

Then there is the unexpected. What underclassmen will decide to enter the draft early?

"Our scouts will have to take that extra look at the good juniors from now on," admits Don Shula, the Miami Dolphins' coach.

"We didn't pay much attention at all to the underclassmen, other than the top guys, before this," admits Dick Steinberg, new general manager of the New York Jets, "but now you have to cover everything."

There are always underclassmen who need no introduction. Certainly Rocket Ismail, Notre Dame's speedy game-breaker, is no stranger to the scouts. Neither is his junior classmate, Derek Brown, the big tight end.

It was impossible to attend a Florida State game last year without noticing Kirk Carruthers, the perpetual motion linebacker. Everyone admired Ed King, Auburn's big guard, for a couple of seasons. Both are 1990 juniors.

The two place-kicking Jasons, Jason Hanson of Washington State and Jason Elam of Hawaii, made All-American squads as sophomores last season. If they want to rob the cradle, the pros know what running back Chuck Webb did for Tennessee after Reggie Cobb was kicked off the squad, and what Steve McGuire did for Miami's running game.

Robbing the cradle for quarterbacks makes less sense. Two freshman quarterbacks, Todd Marinovich of USC and Alex Van Pelt, of Pitt made smash debuts a year ago; but it would be best for everyone if they fermented for a while.❑

TOP • COLLEGE • SENIORS

QUARTERBACKS

1. Craig **Erickson,** Miami
2. Bill **Musgrave,** Oregon
3. D. **McGwire,** San Diego St.
4. Greg **Jones,** West Virginia
5. G. **Hollingsworth,** Alabama
6. Garrett **Gabriel,** Hawaii
7. Shawn **Moore,** Virginia
8. Brad **Goebel,** Baylor
9. Paul **Justin,** Arizona St.
10. Billy **Ray,** Duke
11. Brian **Johnson,** Stanford
12. T. J. **Rubley,** Tulsa
13. Brett **Favre,** So. Mississippi
14. Greg **Frey,** Ohio St.

RUNNING BACKS

1. Siran **Stacy,** Alabama
2. C. **Weatherspoon,** Houston
3. Blaise **Bryant,** Iowa St.
4. Harvey **Williams,** LSU
5. Ricky **Ervins,** USC
6. Darren **Lewis,** Texas A&M
7. Aaron **Craver,** San Jose St.
8. James **Joseph,** Auburn
9. Tony **Boles,** Michigan
10. B. **Christian,** Northwestern
11. Jon **Volpe,** Stanford
12. Tony **Alford,** Colorado St.
13. Tony **Darthard,** TCU
14. Stacy **Danley,** Auburn
15. Jamal **Farmer,** Hawaii
16. S. **Canley,** San Jose St.
17. Leroy **Thompson,** Penn St.

FULLBACKS

1. Tony **Brooks,** Notre Dame
2. Scottie **Graham,** Ohio St.
3. Howard **Griffith,** Illinois
4. Kevin **Turner,** Alabama
5. Todd **Yert,** Colorado St.

TIGHT ENDS

1. Chris **Smith,** Brigham Young
2. Lamonde **Russell,** Alabama
3. Tim **Bruton,** Missouri
4. Gordy **Wood,** Wyoming
5. Rob **Chudzinski,** Miami-FL
6. Randy **Bethel,** Miami-FL
7. Kerry **Cash,** Texas
8. Bruce **McGonnigal,** Virginia

WIDE RECEIVERS

1. Wesley **Carroll,** Miami-FL
2. Ricky **Watters,** Notre Dame
3. Emmanuel **Hazard,** Houston
4. Matt **Bellini,** BYU
5. Johnny **Walker,** Texas
6. C. **Hawkins,** Michigan St.
7. R. **Buchanan,** Northwestern
8. Jeff **Graham,** Ohio St.
9. B. **Slaughter,** LA Tech
10. R. **Barrett,** Texas ElPaso
11. C. **Mayfield,** Oklahoma St.

CENTERS

1. John **Flannery,** Syracuse
2. Mike **Heldt,** Notre Dame
3. Carey **Metts,** Duke
4. Roger **Shultz,** Alabama
5. Curt **Lovelace,** Illinois

GUARDS

1. Joe **Garten,** Colorado
2. Dean **Dingman,** Michigan
3. Eric **Harmon,** Clemson
4. Mark **Tucker,** Southern Cal
5. Wes **McCalip,** Tulsa
6. John **Laurita,** Colorado St.
7. Mike **Sullivan,** TCU

TOP•COLLEGE•SENIORS

TACKLES

1. Stacy **Long,** Clemson
2. Terrill **Chatman,** Alabama
3. Dale **Wolfley,** West Virginia
4. Mike **Sullivan,** Miami-FL
5. Turnell **Sims,** Syracuse
6. Mark **Vander** Poel, Colorado
7. Matt **McCall,** Texas A&M
8. LeMonte **Tellis,** Georgia

DEFENSIVE ENDS

1. Alfred **Williams,** Colorado
2. Rhett **Hall,** California
3. Shane **Curry,** Miami-FL
4. Joel **Dickson,** California
5. Kanavis **McGhee,** Colorado
6. Scott **Kowalkowski,** Notre Dame

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

1. Chris **Zorich,** Notre Dame
2. Russell **Maryland,** Miami-FL
3. David **Rocker,** Auburn
4. Vance **Hammond,** Clemson
5. Moe **Gardner,** Illinois
6. Mel **Agee,** Illinois
7. Mitch **Donahue,** Wyoming
8. Fernando **Horn,** Auburn
9. Kelvin **Pritchett,** Mississippi
10. Jim **Johnson,** Iowa
11. Ted **Washington,** Louisville

LINEBACKERS

1. Huey **Richardson,** Florida
2. Maurice **Crum,** Miami-FL
3. Scott **Ross,** Southern Cal
4. Mike **Stonebreaker,** Notre Dame
5. Craig **Hartsuyker,** Southern Cal
6. Randy **Holleran,** Kentucky
7. Darrick **Brownlow,** Illinois
8. Doug **Brewster,** Clemson
9. Dixon **Edwards,** Michigan St.
10. Morris **Lewis,** Georgia
11. Godfrey **Myles,** Florida
12. Mike **Croel,** Nebraska
13. Donn **Grimm,** Notre Dame
14. William **Thomas,** Texas A&M
15. Brian **Jones,** Texas

CORNERBACKS

1. Todd **Lyght,** Notre Dame
2. Richard **Fain,** Florida
3. Mike **Dumas,** Indiana
4. Efrum **Thomas,** Alabama
5. Kevin **Smith,** Texas A&M
6. Bruce **Pickens,** Nebraska
7. Henry **Jones,** Illinois
8. Chris **Green,** Illinois
9. Rob **Thomson,** Syracuse
10. Willie **Thomas,** Penn St.

SAFETIES

1. Tripp **Welborne,** Michigan
2. Nathan **LaDuke,** Arizona St.
3. Louis **Riddick,** Pitt
4. John **Wiley,** Auburn
5. Gary **Brown,** Penn St.
6. Vada **Murray,** Michigan
7. Reggie **Cooper,** Nebraska
8. Bob **Navarro,** Eastern Michigan
9. Jeff **Hammerschmidt,** Arizona
10. Eric **Turner,** UCLA
11. John **Hardy,** California

PUNTERS

1. Daren **Parker,** South Carolina
2. Robbie **Keen,** California
3. Greg **Hertzog,** West Virginia
4. Tim **Luke,** Colorado St.

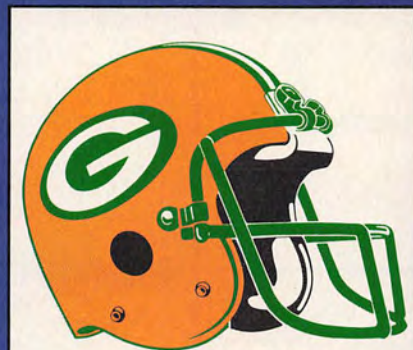
PLACE-KICKERS

1. John **Kasay,** Georgia
2. Philip **Doyle,** Alabama
3. Cary **Blanchard,** Oklahoma St.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Central Division

CHICAGO BEARS



GREEN BAY PACKERS

DETROIT LIONS

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

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MINNESOTA VIKINGS

CAN VIKINGS FINALLY PUT IT TOGETHER

BY MIKE NADEL

Herschel left, Herschel right. Herschel this, Herschel that. Run, Herschel, run. Herschel, Herschel, Herschel.

Can you imagine the excitement the Herschel Walker trade might have created in Minnesota had the deal actually been an undisputedly good one for the Vikings?

"One person can only do so much," Coach Jerry Burns said. "I don't know what everyone expected."

Everyone expected the moon, the sun and the stars. And, for one sensational afternoon, Walker delivered.

The first time the man touched the football he went 51 yards with a kickoff. His initial run from scrimmage produced 47 yards. He rushed for 148 yards in his first game as a Viking, leading Minnesota to a victory over the hated Green Bay Packers. All that after only two days of practice.

Not since the Twins won the 1987 World Series had the Metrodome been so full of anticipation every time the home team was on offense. Almost instantly, purple No. 34 jerseys became the hottest fashion in town. Herschelmania had taken Minnesota by storm and no clearing pattern was in sight.

Super Bowl? Why even play the thing? Why not just crown the Vikings NFL champions and let the rest of 'em play for second place?

Walker seemed the perfect addition to a team that had nine Pro Bowl players the previous season, a team many picked to win the Super Bowl even before Walker arrived.

General manager Mike Lynn certainly liked his chances even more after he finally completed the trade that had been rumored for weeks. On Oct. 12, Columbus Day became Herschel Day as the Vikings sent five players and seven conditional draft choices to the Dallas Cowboys for the former All-Pro.

In the Twin Cities there was dancing in the streets. Many, including Lynn, saw Walker as the Vikings' missing link between good and great.

"We're interested in going to the Super Bowl and interested in winning the Super Bowl," Lynn said on Herschel Day. "And we felt that the last piece of the puzzle, the last spoke on the wheel, was a running back. And not just a running back, but a marquee running back."

Of course, it wasn't that easy. It never is for the Vikings, the most talented collection of non-winners the NFL has seen in years.

In the end, Walker fit right in with the league's most underachieving, inconsistent team. His production fell fairly steadily — from that glorious 148-yard opener to games of 89, 68, 76, 48, 48, 42, 36, 14, 57 and 43 yards. And the Vikings never again played as well as they did in that game against the Packers.

Minnesota needed a victory over the Cincinnati Bengals in the regular-season finale to finish 10-6 and edge the Packers in a tie-breaker for the final playoff spot.

In the playoffs, the Vikings continued to use Walker more as decoy than battering ram. He gained 29 yards as Minnesota lost 41-13 to the San Francisco 49ers. It was the most lopsided postseason defeat ever for a franchise that is no stranger to playoff humiliation.

What the heck happened to make Herschelmania blow up in the Vikings' faces? How can the Vikings prevent it from happening again in 1990, when they will again be considered Super Bowl contenders, if not favorites?

"There was so much emotion that first Green Bay game, things broke favorably for us and snowballed," Burns said. "I don't think it would have been humanly possible for Herschel to maintain that over the course of a season.

"He'll go through a full camp and preseason with us now. At that point, we'll begin to truly see his ability. There's no question the guy's a great back.

"Obviously, we gave up a lot for him. But the trade can't be judged until the middle or end of the 1990 season. At this point, all the chips aren't on the table."

Said Lynn: "I thought the abnormal thing was what Herschel did in the Green Bay game. Coming in midway through the season is tough. Now he's going to have a whole training camp, a whole year to learn our system and get comfortable. I'm not writing this trade off, in no way, shape or form."

For the record, when all the complex conditions were worked out during the offseason, here's the form one of the biggest trades in NFL history took:

- The Vikings lost linebackers Jesse Solomon and David Howard, cornerback Ike Holt, running back Darrin Nelson and defensive lineman Alex Stewart, first-round draft choices in 1990, 1991 and 1992, second-round picks in 1990, 1991 and 1992, a third-rounder in 1992 and a sixth-rounder in 1990.
- The Vikings got Walker, Dallas' third-round picks in 1990 and 1991, the Cowboys' 10th-rounder in 1990 and a 1990

fifth-rounder the Cowboys had obtained from the San Diego Chargers.

In other words, the Vikings gave up five players and six high draft choices for the 27-year-old Walker and a bunch of middle-round selections.

On Herschel Day, Lynn said, "If we don't get to the Super Bowl while Herschel Walker is a member of the Minnesota Vikings, then we have not made a good trade."

So, in Lynn's mind, the deal that mortgaged the Vikings' drafting future is not yet a bust and the Vikings and Walker still have a chance to make it a good one.

"You never know about a trade," Lynn said. "I think first-round draft picks are overrated anyway. One-third of them turn out to be quality players, one-third of them are average and one-third of them are washouts. Our team has been built with middle-round picks."

It looks like it will have to be built with those choices for years to come.

One such pick, quarterback Wade Wilson, must perform closer to his 1988 Pro Bowl form than last season's erratic showing if the Vikings are to win anything in 1990. More than Walker, Wilson is the key because without an aggressive passing attack, the Vikings can't hope to spring Walker for large gains.

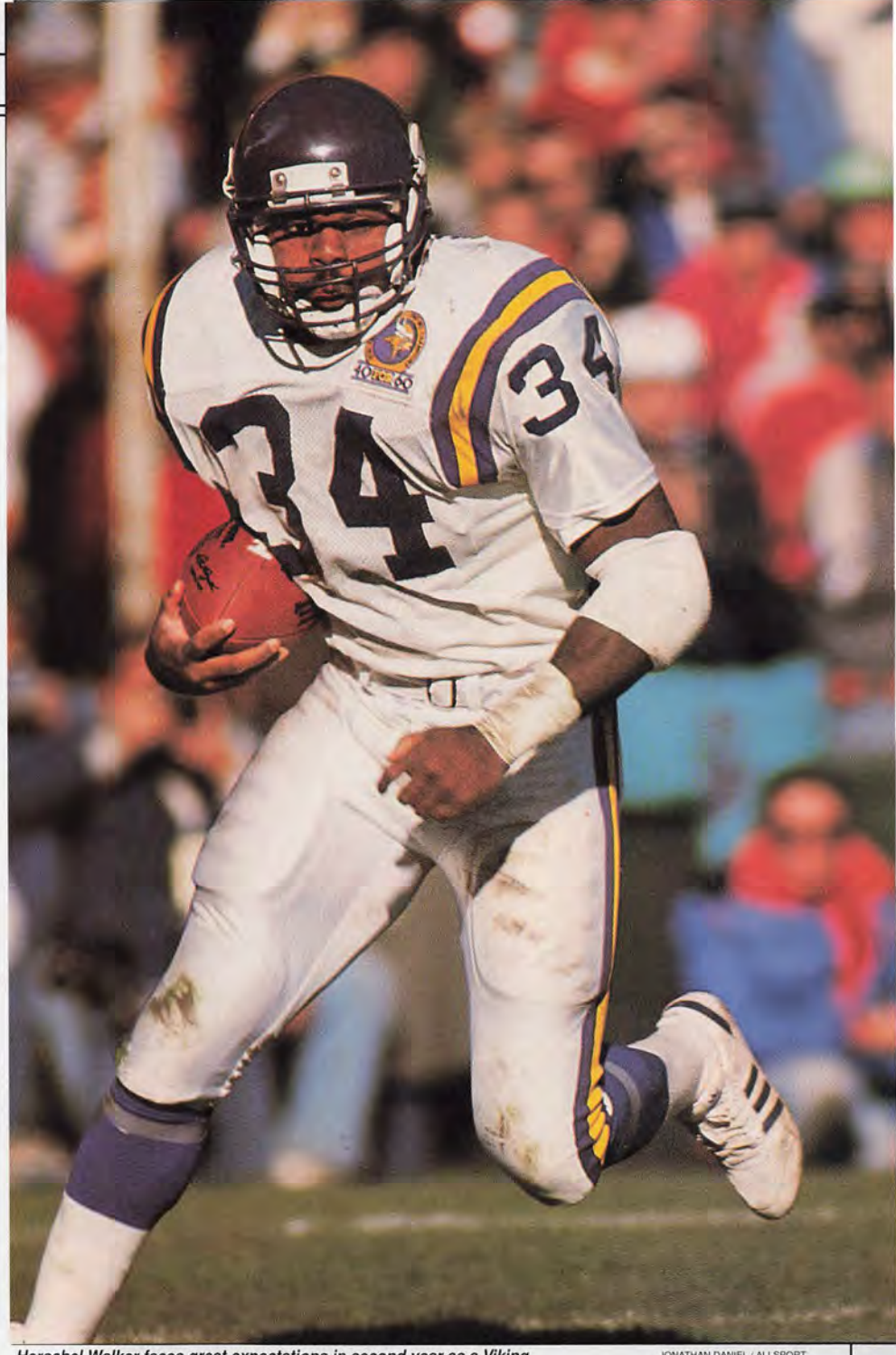
"I don't think he had the consistency of play he has to have for us to win," Burns said. "His play was, at best, average last year. Statistics bear that out. And that's not good enough. Without putting all the blame on Wade, that had a lot to do with our offensive problems. A quarterback has to make the plays, scramble at the right times, throw accurately, read defenses accurately. We need better play."

Wilson led the NFC in passing in 1988 but, after signing the first million-dollar-a-year contract in Vikings history, he ranked ninth in 1989. He threw more interceptions than touchdown passes and completed only 53.6 percent of his throws.

One distraction has been removed. Tommy Kramer, whom Wilson had battled for the starting job the last three years, has been released. Rich Gannon, who has thrown 21 passes in his three-year career, is not yet considered a viable option. Once and for all, it appears the show is Wilson's alone.

But another distraction may be on the horizon. Bob Schnelker, the offensive coordinator who took most of the heat for Walker's declining production, has a new boss in Tom Moore. Moore is Burns' assistant head coach in charge of offense and Schnelker's role is expected to decrease dramatically.

Talk about a slap in the face for Schnelker: he's being replaced by a guy who guided the Pittsburgh Steelers to a most impressive offensive ranking last season — 28th out of 28 teams.



Herschel Walker faces great expectations in second year as a Viking. JONATHAN DANIEL / ALLSPORT

Coaching changes also took place on defense, where Floyd Peters' hands-on approach as defensive coordinator alienated secondary coach Pete Carroll and linebackers coach Monte Kiffin. Both jumped to the New York Jets.

This team needed coaching staff strife like Napoleon needed a more snow in Russia.

Last year was full of dissension, distractions and disruptions, including (but not limited to):

Preseason hold outs by 10 players; grumbling over the salary being paid to newcomer Mike Merriweather; Anthony Carter threatening to not "put my best foot forward" because he perceived himself as underpaid; Joey Browner accusing Lynn of racism in contract negotiations; two more incidents in a three-year series of arrests for driving while intoxicated, leading some pundits to call them the "DWIkings"; Chris Doleman sulking because linemate Keith Millard was named Defensive Player of the Year and Schnelker-bashing by fans, media

Chris Doleman is a mainstay of Minnesota defense. ALLEN DEAN STEELE

and many players.

"This off-season, we're doing everything we can to create a unified approach," said Burns, whose job may hinge on his ability to do just that.

"The total concentration you have to have wasn't there last year, a lot of it because contracts weren't settled as we were opening the season," Burns said. "Mike has told me that he'll have everybody in the fold early this year. I know agents use the threat of hold outs to exert pressure, but hopefully we won't get to that point this year. Hopefully, we'll have everybody signed, sealed and delivered."

Lynn, who tried to mandate togetherness with his hokey "40 for 60" theme last season, promises an approach that is "nothing subtle" this year. He's formed a team council of the club's most respected players and hopes that by keeping the lines of communication open between himself and team leaders he can head off dissension before it happens.

However, Lynn may have his own problems as 1990 unfolds. Twins owner Carl Pohlad and Minneapolis businessman Irwin Jacobs have banded together to buy 50 percent of the Vikings and, through courts of law, have made some progress toward their ultimate goal — seeing Lynn fired. So Lynn, who as recently as a few months ago was emerging as one of the NFL's most influential voices, may find himself fighting for his football life.

When he turns his attention to the playing field, he is intent on finding the Vikings a starting free safety and offensive line depth. Otherwise, he said, "We have a championship team."

It also wouldn't hurt if Lynn could find a magic elixir that would enable the Vikings — once the NFL's frostbite and dirt-stain kings — to win outside the environmentally controlled Metrodome. Had they not gone 8-0 there, 1989 would have been a complete disaster.

Lynn acknowledges the "Dome Syndrome" as a problem, but doesn't let it get him down. One of his strengths is that he always sees the glass as half-full, always sees the sky as partly sunny.

"Look at our team. Our team is young," he said. "We think this group is going to be strong for three to five more years. If you have a lot of holes to fill and do what we did, you could be in big trouble. But we don't and we aren't. Sure, it was a risk, but we were one of the few teams that could have traded for a Herschel Walker."

It always seems to come back to Walker.

Forget the Vikings' top-ranked defense. Forget the contribution of kicker Rich Karlis, who quietly became the Vikings' most valuable acquisition last year. Forget the improvement of relative unknowns like Randall McDaniel, Hassan Jones, Rick Fenney, Henry Thomas, Al Noga, Ray Berry and Reggie Rutland.

People want to know what Burns, Moore and Schnelker have in mind for Herschel Walker.

Frankly, Burns is sick to death of the subject. Normally he goes out of his way to be cordial, but Burns began to get Herscheled out by last midseason. And, if anything, he is now less tolerant of Herschelmania.

"If you were at the press conference the day of the trade, you'll remember that Mike — not me — said that if we didn't win the Super Bowl, then the trade would not be judged as a success," Burns said. "I interrupted right away and said that no one player in football can win it for you. Unlike basketball, where a great player can control a game, unlike baseball, where a pitcher can dominate, it can't be done in football.

"One thing I do not like is all the constant concentration on Herschel Walker. We have other players. Other great players. Yet every day, it's Herschel Walker, Herschel Walker, Herschel Walker. This became a problem last year. I'm not going to let it become one this year. Let's just wait and see what happens."❑

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No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
46	**Anderson**, Alfred	RB	6-1	216	6	Baylor
7	**Becker**, Chris	P	6-1	192	1	TCU
50	**Berry**, Ray	LB	6-2	226	3	Baylor
68	**Blair**, Paul	T	6-4	280	3	Oklahoma State
53	**Braxton**, David	LB	6-1	232	R	Wake Forest
44	**Brim**, Michael	CB	6-0	186	2	Virginia Union
47	**Browner**, Joey	S	6-2	223	7	USC
19	**Burbage**, Cornell	WR	5-10	189	3	Kentucky
81	**Carter**, Anthony	WR	5-11	178	5	Michigan
33	**Clark**, Jessie	RB	6-0	233	8	Arkansas
71	**Clarke**, Ken	DT	6-2	281	12	Syracuse
56	**Doleman**, Chris	DE	6-5	263	5	Pittsburgh
42	**Dozier**, D.J.	RB	6-0	205	3	Penn State
59	**Dusbabek**, Mark	LB	6-3	230	1	Minnesota
31	**Fenney**, Rick	RB	6-1	231	3	Washington
62	**Foote**, Chris	C	6-4	248	7	USC
29	**Fullington**, Darrell	S	6-1	186	2	Miami (FL)
51	**Galvin**, John	LB	6-3	226	1	Boston College
16	**Gannon**, Rich	QB	6-3	202	3	Delaware
80	**Gustafson**, Jim	WR	6-1	174	4	St. Thomas
74	**Habib**, Brian	T	6-7	282	1	Washington
89	**Hillary**, Ira	WR	5-11	190	4	South Carolina
72	**Huffman**, David	G	6-6	278	10	Notre Dame
86	**Ingram**, Darryl	TE	6-2	230	R	California
76	**Irwin**, Tim	T	6-8	290	9	Tennessee
22	**Johnson**, Ken	S	6-2	197	1	Florida A&M
84	**Jones**, Hassan	WR	6-0	195	4	Florida State
83	**Jordan**, Steve	TE	6-4	241	9	Brown
69	**Kalis**, Todd	G	6-5	286	2	Arizona State
3	**Karlis**, Richard	K	6-0	180	8	Cincinnati

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
77	**Knight**, Shawn	DT-DE	6-6	288	4	Brigham Young
39	**Lee**, Carl	CB	6-0	184	7	Marshall
87	**Lewis**, Leo	WR	5-8	165	9	Missouri
63	**Lowdermilk**, Kirk	C	6-3	263	5	Ohio State
49	**Lyons**, Robert	S	6-1	195	1	Akron
78	**Marrone**, Doug	T-G	6-5	269	3	Syracuse
79	**Martin**, Doug	DE	6-3	258	10	Washington
64	**McDaniel**, Randall	G	6-3	275	2	Arizona State
26	**McMillian**, Audray	CB	6-0	189	4	Houston
57	**Merriweather**, Mike	LB	6-2	222	7	Pacific
75	**Millard**, Keith	DT	6-5	263	5	Washington
18	**Newsome**, Harry	P	6-0	188	5	Wake Forest
99	**Noga**, Al	DE	6-1	248	2	Hawaii
85	**Novoselsky**, Brent	TE	6-2	238	2	Pennsylvania
36	**Rice**, Allen	RB	5-10	206	7	Baylor
48	**Rutland**, Reggie	CB	6-1	192	3	Georgia Tech
12	**Salisbury**, Sean	QB	6-5	215	2	USC
17	**Schillinger**, Andy	WR	5-11	179	2	Miami (OH)
60	**Schreiber**, Adam	C-G	6-4	288	7	Texas
13	**Scribner**, Bucky	P	6-0	203	5	Kansas
27	**Stills**, Ken	S	5-10	197	6	Wisconsin
94	**Strauthers**, Thomas	DE	6-4	262	5	Jackson State
55	**Studwell**, Scott	LB	6-2	221	13	Illinois
97	**Thomas**, Henry	NT	6-2	268	3	LSU
34	**Walker**, Herschel	RB	6-1	226	4	Georgia
23	**Williams**, Wayne	RB	5-10	197	1	Florida
11	**Wilson**, Wade	QB	6-3	210	9	East Texas State
73	**Wolfley**, Craig	G	6-1	269	11	Syracuse
58	**Woodson**, Sean	LB	6-2	226	1	James Madison
65	**Zimmerman**, Gary	T	6-6	283	4	Oregon

VIKINGS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
3	Mike **JONES** *TE*	6-3, 255	**Texas A&M**	Consensus All-Southwest Conference choice . . . Tied for the team lead with 36 receptions for 501 yards (13.9 avg.) and 3 TDs . . . Has 4.7 speed in the 40.
3	Marion **HOBBY** *DE-T*	6-4, 277	**Tennessee**	Outstanding run defender with a powerful and muscular frame . . . Has 5.25 speed in the 40 . . . Punishing inside charger who uses his hands well and has a wide array of moves . . . Consensus All-Southeastern Conference pick . . . Recorded 67 tackles (43 solos) and 22 quarterback pressures.
4	Alonzo **HAMPTON** *CB-PR*	5-10, 197	**Pittsburgh**	Outstanding pass defender and one of the nation's premier return specialists . . . Great leaper with quick feet . . . All-American honorable mention . . . Recorded 33 tackles (29 solos), 2 pass deflections and 3 interceptions . . . Added 247 yards on 27 punt returns (9.2 avg.) and 19 yards on a kickoff return.
5	Reggie **THORNTON** *WR*	5-11, 166	**Bowling Green**	One of the best receivers to ever wear a Falcon uniform . . . Recently timed at 4.48 in the 40 . . . Ranks second on the school's all-time list with 158 catches and fourth with 2,268 yards receiving . . . Second team All-Mid American Conference selection in 1989 . . . Ranked second to teammate Ron Heard in the conference with 50 receptions for 645 yards (12.9 avg.) and 3 TDs.
5	Cedric **SMITH** *FB*	5-10, 223	**Florida**	Tremendous blocker who is an effective receiver coming out of the backfield . . . Superb short-yardage runner with 4.59 speed in the 40 . . . Carried 41 times for 171 yards.
7	John **LEVELIS** *OLB-DE*	6-2, 232	**C. W. Post**	One of the nation's premier pass-rushers . . . All-American selection by Kodak and AP . . . All-Eastern College Athletic Conference . . . Recorded 68 tackles (55 solos) with 17 sacks and 23 stops for minus 149 yards . . . Deflected 4 passes and was credited with 20 sacks.
8	Craig **SCHLICHTING** *DT*	6-5, 250	**Wyoming**	A former defensive end but has moved inside and done a great job . . . Has great speed for his size . . . All-WAC selection as a senior . . . Had 49 total tackles including 4 sacks.
9	Terry **ALLEN** *TB*	5-11, 202	**Clemson**	Recently timed at 4.45 in the 40 with a 39-inch vertical leap . . . Ranks second on the school's all-time rushing list with 2,778 yards . . . Underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee to repair lateral cartilage damage, missing the Gator Bowl . . . Finished second with 613 yards and 10 TDs on 124 carries (4.9 avg.) . . . Sat out the season opener vs. Furman . . . Sprained his left knee in the second quarter vs. Virginia, missing the Georgia Tech and North Carolina State contests . . . Gained 1,192 yards with 10 TDs on 216 carries (5.5 avg.), the third best season total in school history in 1988.
10	Patrick **NEWMAN** *WR*	6-1, 195	**Utah State**	School's No. 1 receiver in 1989 and No. 2 in 1988 . . . Had 145 catches for 2,221 yards and 17 TDs in four years and ranks second on the Ags' career list . . . In 1989, 45 receptions for 791 yards and 4 TDs.
10	Donald **SMITH** *CB*	6-0, 190	**Liberty**	Tied for the team lead in interceptions with 3 . . . Blocked a punt, forced a blocked punt and added 7 tackles against Edinboro . . . One of the top kickoff returners in the country with 27.3 yards per return average . . . Scored on a 94 yard kickoff return vs. Edinboro.
12	Ron **GOETZ** *OLB*	6-3, 236	**Minnesota**	Has fine size, great coordination and tremendous agility . . . Timed at 4.84 in the 40 . . . All-Big 10 Conference honors . . . Ranked third on the team with 68 tackles (41 solos), 2 sacks and 9 tackles for 32 yards in losses . . . Also had 2 interceptions.

VIKINGS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	VIKINGS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	326	266
Rushing	126	100
Passing	172	140
Penalty	28	26
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	73/215	78/233
4th Down: Made/Atts.	11/16	16/25
TOTAL NET YARDS	5255	4184
Avg. Per Game	328.4	261.5
Total Plays	1053	1021
Avg. Per Play	5.0	4.1
NET YARDS RUSHING	2066	1683
Avg. Per Game	129.1	105.2
Total Rushes	514	462
NET YARDS PASSING	3189	2501
Avg. Per Game	199.3	156.3
Tackled/Yards Lost	40/279	71/502
Gross Yards	3468	3003
Attempts/Completions	499/272	488/252
Pct. of Completions	54.5	51.6
Had Intercepted	19	18
PUNTS/AVERAGE	72/39.8	95/40.6
NET PUNTING AVG.	33.4	34.6
PENALTIES/YARDS	119/974	116/903
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	28/14	29/18
TOUCHDOWNS	36	34
Rushing	12	14
Passing	17	18
Returns	7	2

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
VIKINGS	80	139	80	50	2	351
OPP. TOTAL	54	47	55	113	6	275

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Karlis	3-3	14-15	5-6	8-12	1-3	31-39
Garcia	0-0	0-0	1-4	0-0	0-1	1-5

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Walker	169	669	4.0	47	5
Fenney	151	588	3.9	25	4
Dozier	46	207	4.5	38	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Carter	65	1066	16.4	50	4
Jones	42	694	16.5	50	1
Jordan	35	506	14.5	34	3
Fenney	30	254	8.5	26	2
Anderson	20	193	9.7	18	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Browner	5	70	14.0	34	0
Merriweather	3	29	9.7	t15	1
Rutland	2	7	3.5	7	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Scribner	72	2864	39.8	8	16	55	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Lewis	44	27	446	10.1	65	0
Carter	1	0	2	2.0	2	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Nelson	14	317	22.6	32	0
Walker	13	374	28.8	t93	1

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Wilson	362	194	2543	53.6	7.02	9	2.5	12	3.3	50	27/194	70.5
Kramer	136	77	906	56.6	6.66	7	5.1	7	5.1	39	12/75	72.7

DETROIT LIONS

LIONS START TO SHOW TEETH

BY CURT SYLVESTER

Wayne Fontes won't know for sure until sometime next September but he has a feeling the Detroit Lions might have learned some lessons — the hard way, of course — from the miseries of 1989. And 1988, and 1987, and . . . well, you get the point.

After years of mediocre, losing seasons, the Lions seem to have stumbled onto something while dropping eight of their first nine games in 1989.

Fontes hopes and believes they have learned how to win.

"The biggest thing I had to turn around was the attitude, to win the close games," Fontes said after his first full season as the Lions' head coach.

"At the beginning of the season we were still losing them. Even though teams might have been better than we were, we had chances to win and we kept letting it get away.

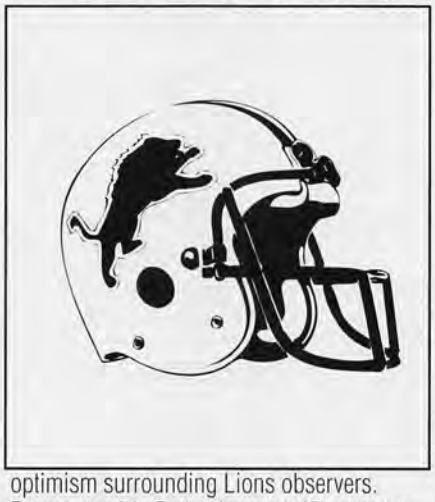
"Or we're up by two and a team moves 40 yards to kick a field goal and wins; we're up by six and they go 70 yards to score a touchdown and win; or they're up by four and we have a chance to score but we fumble the ball.

"Those are the things we had to change. It was an attitude. It was a new thing for us to say we could win without giving it away. I think that's what happened the last five games."

Five games. Imagine. The perennial Silverdome Sadsack Lions actually won the last five games of the season — against Cleveland, New Orleans, Chicago, Tampa Bay and Atlanta — and finished the season with a semi-respectable 7-9 record.

Linebacker Chris Spielman and nose tackle Jerry Ball went to the Pro Bowl. The defense restored some of the nastiness that was a trademark of Lions teams 25 years ago. A little-known former USFL receiver — Richard Johnson — set a club record with 70 receptions. And rookie running back Barry Sanders restored the big-play capability the Lions had lacked since Billy Sims blew out his knee in 1984.

And now there actually is a feeling of



optimism surrounding Lions observers. Fontes, the Mr. Enthusiasm of NFL coaches, is struggling to keep the optimism at a realistic level while prodding the Lions toward division contender status.

"I'm going to tell them I expect it this year, but I know we're short in some positions," Fontes said. "I think the media feels the same way. There are positions we have to improve, but with an attitude and discipline, on any given Sunday you have a chance. I know that's an old cliche . . . but I want to try to compete this year."

Mostly the Lions need a big-play wide receiver and pass-rusher. Possibly they need to solidify their quarterback position. And Fontes would sleep a lot better if he had another quality cornerback.

But as long as the Lions have Sanders, the 1989 runaway Offensive Rookie-of-the-Year, they're going to have a chance to win some football games.

They went to the stretch (most people know it as the run-and-shoot) offense — a passing offense — in 1989 and Sanders set a club single-season record with 1470 yards rushing, plus 14 touchdowns, and 282 yards receiving.

"I think the stretch will get better," Fontes said. "We can get better running the football; Barry Sanders will become a more important part of our offense. I think it will get better because our passing game has to improve.

"This is a pass-oriented offense and we were one of the worst teams in the league passing the football. But the thing about it, it scares you. With a guy like Barry Sanders, teams are going to say, 'Hey, we have to stop this guy.' I think it will open up our passing lanes. Plus, we need to get better skilled athletes at those positions."

Fontes and most Lions opponents couldn't say enough good things to accurately describe Sanders.

At 5'8" and 203 lbs., he is not the prototype runner for a one-back offense. He is not big enough to be a dominating blocker and he was not an experienced receiver coming out of his Heisman Trophy-winning junior season at Oklahoma State.

But he is quick, explosive and elusive; he is a hard worker and quick learner and he has a way of turning sure losses into gains. By the end of the season, opposing coaches had compared him to everybody from Sims to Walter Payton to O.J. Simpson.

"He's so small it's hard to get a good lick on him," Fontes said. "He's always going left and right. There are times he gets hit in the backfield and still gets away. Some

of his best runs are three yards. They're just fantastic."

There is little doubt the Lions need a stronger supporting cast for Sanders, however, if their offense is to become as formidable as their defense was by the end of the 1989 season.

The season-ending five-game winning streak was achieved behind journeyman quarterback Bob Gagliano, who stepped into full-time duty after rookie Rodney Peete's third knee injury of the season.

Peete and Gagliano are two of the pieces in the Lions' jumbled quarterback puzzle for 1990. Joining them, with some reluctance, is 1986 first-round draft pick Chuck Long, who missed the first half of the season recovering from elbow surgery and hadn't learned the stretch offense well enough to play in the second half.

Long has the best accuracy and touch of the trio but would prefer to play in a conventional, dropback system; Peete has some pizazz and an average arm, but his durability is suspect; and Gagliano's only starting experience before last season was in the USFL.

Barring the sudden emergence of last year's second-round draft choice John Ford, the receiving corps is undistinguished. Johnson is a typical run-and-shoot inside receiver — short, relatively quick and capable of getting open — and Robert Clark, a Plan B refugee in 1989, does a professional, workmanlike job as a wideout. The signing of Aubrey Matthews as a Plan B free agent this year gives Johnson help inside but the Lions still lack an Anthony Carter or Jerry Rice-type game breaker. Ford's rookie season was a struggle with injuries, routes and adjusting to the ball. It remains questionable whether he can become an effective NFL player.

The Lions' offensive line, restructured after a disappointing 1988 season, is solid, if not outstanding, overall. Left tackle Lomas Brown, now a five-year veteran, is still touted as a potential Pro Bowl pass-blocker. Kevin Glover raised his level of performance dramatically after moving from guard to center, his natural position. And Eric Andolsek became an aggressive, tenacious performer at left guard in his second NFL season. Rookie Mike Utley, at 6'6" and 280 lbs., is expected to recover from a midseason knee injury to reclaim the right guard job in 1990 and right tackle Harvey Salem was on the Lomas Brown level as a pass protector before suffering a shoulder injury that required surgery last winter.

Chris Spielman hopes for another Pro Bowl.

ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

A major concern of the offense is depth. Ken Dallafior, a five-year veteran who took over at right guard when Utley was hurt, was left unprotected on Plan B. So aside from tackle/long snapper Eric Sanders, the Lions have little depth on the offensive line. And the backup man to Barry Sanders is Carl Painter, who has carried 32 times for 106 yards in two NFL seasons.

The Lions' greatest overall strength going into the 1990 season probably is their defense, which is especially strong up the middle with Ball, linebackers Spielman and Dennis Gibson and free safety Bennie Blades.

The linebacking quality does not drop off with Spielman and Gibson, the inside backers. Mike Cofer, a Pro Bowl starter in the 1988 season, was slowed by a foot injury last year but is expected to return to

form as a pass-rusher from the outside right linebacker position. Jimmy Williams, the left outside backer, gets no acclaim as a pass-rusher but had a career year in 1989 as a run-stopper.

Gibson's value to the team was demonstrated clearly last year when he missed 10 games with a shoulder injury. His return late in the season gave the Lions a heady, inside presence that provided an immediate lift to the run defense.

Spielman, an admitted over-achiever, has led Lions defenders in tackles both seasons in the NFL. He plays over pain with intensity and abandon, a throwback to the Dick Butkus, Jack Lambert-type linebacker who doesn't mind knocking opposing ball carriers or receivers out of a game.

Unfortunately for the Lions, their quality of line and secondary play doesn't measure up to the level of their linebackers.

Ball, whose quickness and durability belie his 6', 300-pounds-plus frame, gives Detroit an anchor for its defensive line. He was fifth on the team in tackles (73) despite being doubled and frequently triple-teamed, and still was able to produce 9 quarterback sacks on the way to his first Pro Bowl appearance in three NFL seasons.

The defensive ends, Eric Williams on the left and Kevin Brooks on the right, both are capable two-gap players who can help Ball shut down the run. Neither has much of a knack for rushing the quarterback, an area in which the Lions are woefully deficient. The return of nine-year veteran Keith Ferguson at right defensive end after a season-long ankle injury will give the Lions their best rusher on the defensive line.

Barry Sanders has Detroit fans roaring. JONATHAN DANIEL / ALLSPORT

The addition of cornerback Terry Taylor, who has solid coverage ability, helped shore up the secondary, but the Lions still are at least one cornerback away from what Fontes and his new defensive backfield coach — his brother Len — want.

Jerry Holmes, after a slow start, was the team's leading interceptor with 6 in 1989 but, at 32, the Lions decided not to protect him on Plan B. That means one of two second-year players, Bruce Alexander or Ray Crockett, probably will have the first shot at the right corner position.

Blades struggled slightly in his second NFL season, first with shoulder and collarbone injuries, then with a position shift from strong to free safety.

It is likely the Fontes brothers will put Blades at free safety and leave him there to get him as involved as possible in the game in a Ronnie Lott-style enforcer role. William White, a heady player with limited speed, is ticketed for the strong safety position.

The Lions' defensive depth is best at linebacker where they have former All-USFL player George Jamison, former Miami starter Mark Brown, plus talented special teams players Toby Caston, Niko Noga and Victor Jones. The signing of defensive end Mark Duckens, a Plan B free agent left unprotected by the New York Giants, gives them defensive line depth they needed badly. The critical area for backup help is the secondary.

Ten-year veteran Ed Murray, who has missed only two of 42 field goal attempts during the past two seasons, is the cornerstone of the special teams put together by assistant coach Frank Gansz. Although Murray does not have end zone leg strength on kickoffs, his consistency on field goals made him a Pro Bowl selection last season.

Jim Arnold, the NFC Pro Bowl punter in two of his four years in Detroit, is coming off postseason arthroscopic knee surgery, but if he can come close to last year's marks (43.1 yards per punt and 36 yards net), Gansz will be able to construct an effective punt coverage unit.

Mel Gray, who led the NFL in kickoff returns with a 26.7-yard average a year ago, might be pressed into double duty on punt returns, also. The Lions lost Walter Stanley, the NFC's punt return leader, to Plan B free agency but expect Gray to handle both jobs if it's necessary.

The Lions' strong finish in 1989 might have been a testimony to Fontes' coaching skills. After hitting rock-bottom in a 42-7 loss Nov. 19 at Cincinnati and falling to a 2-9 record, Fontes somehow scraped the Lions off the floor for the five-game season-ending winning streak, their longest since 1970.

Fontes' success might have surprised some observers who thought of him purely as a players' coach. He has proved to be as tough as he has to be, has put together a strong staff and knows what it takes to win in the NFL. If he can get the Lions to .500 or above, it will be their best record since the 1983 team, coached by Monte Clark, won the NFC Central Division title with a 9-7 record.❑

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
32	**Alexander**, Bruce	CB	5-9	169	2	Stephen F. Austin
65	**Andolsek**, Eric	G	6-2	286	3	Louisiana State
6	**Arnold**, Jim	P	6-3	211	8	Vanderbilt
93	**Ball**, Jerry	NT	6-1	298	4	Southern Methodist
36	**Blades**, Bennie	S	6-1	221	3	Miami (FL)
27	**Broady**, Tim	DB	6-0	210	1	Murray State
97	**Brooks**, Kevin	DL	6-6	278	6	Michigan
75	**Brown**, Lomas	T	6-4	287	6	Florida
95	**Brown**, Mark	LB	6-2	240	8	Purdue
50	**Caston**, Toby	ILB	6-1	243	4	Louisiana State
82	**Clark**, Robert	WR	5-11	173	4	North Carolina Central
30	**Cocroft**, Sherman	S	6-1	190	5	San Jose State
55	**Cofer**, Michael	OLB	6-5	244	8	Tennessee
99	**Cribbs**, James	DE	6-3	275	2	Memphis State
39	**Crockett**, Ray	CB	5-9	181	2	Baylor
67	**Dallafior**, Ken	G-C	6-4	279	6	Minnesota
33	**Dawson**, Ken	SB	6-0	230	R	Appalachian State
79	**Duckens**, Mark	DE	6-4	270	2	Arizona State
77	**Ferguson**, Keith	DE	6-5	276	10	Ohio State
80	**Ford**, John	WR	6-2	204	2	Virginia
14	**Gagliano**, Bob	QB	6-3	196	6	Utah State
98	**Gibson**, Dennis	ILB	6-2	243	4	Iowa State
53	**Glover**, Kevin	C-G	6-2	282	6	Maryland
23	**Gray**, Mel	WR-KR	5-9	162	5	Purdue
62	**Green**, Curtis	DE-NT	6-3	273	10	Alabama State
94	**Guidry**, Ken	NT	6-1	287	R	North Carolina State
38	**Holmes**, David	DB	6-2	192	2	Syracuse
58	**Jamison**, George	LB	6-1	228	4	Cincinnati
84	**Johnson**, Richard	WR	5-6	184	2	Colorado
12	**Jones**, Eric	QB	6-2	197	1	Vanderbilt
57	**Jones**, Victor	ILB	6-2	240	3	Virginia Tech
90	**Karpinski**, Keith	OLB	6-3	225	2	Penn State
15	**Kramer**, Erik	QB	6-1	195	1	North Carolina State
16	**Long**, Chuck	QB	6-4	221	5	Iowa
66	**Marlatt**, Pat	DE	6-5	270	1	West Virginia State
83	**Matthews**, Aubrey	WR	5-7	165	5	Delta State
89	**McDonald**, Keith	WR	5-7	159	3	San Jose State
29	**McNorton**, Bruce	CB	5-10	175	9	Georgetown (KY)
25	**Miller**, Chuck	DB	5-10	180	2	UCLA
44	**Miller**, John	S	6-1	195	2	Michigan State
81	**Mobley**, Stacey	WR	5-7	165	2	Jackson State
52	**Mott**, Steve	C	6-3	265	7	Alabama
3	**Murray**, Eddie	K	5-10	180	11	Tulane
51	**Noga**, Niko	LB	6-1	235	7	Hawaii
26	**Painter**, Carl	SB	5-9	188	3	Hampton Institute
9	**Peete**, Rodney	QB	6-0	193	2	Southern California
96	**Pete**, Lawrence	NT	6-0	282	2	Nebraska
24	**Phillips**, Jason	WR	5-7	168	2	Houston
31	**Richard**, Gary	CB	5-10	176	2	Missouri
73	**Salem**, Harvey	T-G	6-6	289	8	California
20	**Sanders**, Barry	SB	5-8	203	2	Oklahoma State
64	**Sanders**, Eric	T-G	6-7	286	10	Nevada-Reno
2	**Smith**, Davis	WR	5-4	150	R	Texas Southern
54	**Spielman**, Chris	ILB	6-0	244	3	Ohio State
21	**Taylor**, Terry	CB	5-10	191	7	Southern Illinois
60	**Utley**, Mike	G-T	6-6	279	2	Washington State
28	**Welch**, Herb	S	5-11	180	6	UCLA
35	**White**, William	DB	5-10	191	3	Ohio State
40	**Wilkerson**, Eric	SB	5-9	185	1	Kent State
4	**Williams**, Byron	WR	6-2	185	3	Texas-Arlington
76	**Williams**, Eric	DE	6-4	286	7	Washington State
59	**Williams**, Jimmy	OLB	6-3	225	9	Nebraska
63	**Wilson**, Curtis	C	6-3	290	1	Missouri

LIONS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Andre **WARE** *QB*	6-2, 250	**Houston**	Holder of virtually every Cougar and Southwest Conference game and season passing record . . . In only 27 contests, set an all-time SWC record with 75 TD passes, topping the previous mark of 48 . . . Holds the school's career passing marks for efficiency (133.7 rating), attempts (1,074), completions (660), TDs (75) and yardage (8,202) . . . Recipient of the Heisman Trophy in 1989 . . . Broke every school and conference season passing record in addition to 13 NCAA marks . . . Completed 365 of 578 passes (63.1%) for 4,699 yards and 46 TDs . . . Averaged 427.2 yards passing per game . . . Set NCAA records for yards passing in a quarter (340), yards passing in a half (517), most TD passes in a quarter (5) and consecutive 200-yard passing games (12).
2	Dan **OWENS** *NG-DE*	6-4, 268	**Southern California**	First Trojan defensive lineman to start every game during his four year career . . . Recorded 87 tackles (51 solos) with 12 sacks and 20 stops for 90 yards in losses . . . Had 9 pass deflections.
3	Marc **SPINDLER** *DT*	6-5, 277	**Pittsburgh**	Ferocious tackler with great strength, speed and mobility . . . Has 4.94 speed in the 40 . . . Led the team with 73 tackles (49 solos), 4.5 sacks and 12 stops for 50 yards in losses.
4	Rob **HINCKLEY** *LB*	6-5, 246	**Stanford**	Went relatively unnoticed during his senior year because of preseason ankle injury and later a back injury . . . Looked good in East-West Shrine Game.
4	Chris **OLDHAM** *CB-KR*	5-9, 183	**Oregon**	Outstanding pass defender . . . Fast, aggressive tackler regarded by many to be the premier kick-off returner in the country . . . All-American selection by the Football Writers Association . . . Ranked among the nation's leaders with 14 kickoff returns for 402 yards (28.7 avg.).
5	Jeff **CAMPBELL** *WR*	5-9, 170	**Colorado**	Had another big play year as he touched the ball 40 times for 779 yards or 19.5 yards every play . . . Ninth nationally in punt returns . . . Tied the school career record for punt returns (84) and established a new mark for career punt return yards 904.
6	Maurice **HENRY** *RB-LB*	5-11, 220	**Kansas State**	Outstanding athlete who played three positions at Kansas State . . . Averaged 9.4 yards and scored 3 TDs during two seasons as a running back . . . Moved to outside linebacker as a junior and made 100 tackles . . . Played defensive end as a senior recording 58 tackles and 6 sacks.
7	Tracy **HAYWORTH** *OLB-DE*	6-3, 250	**Tennessee**	Excelled at both outside linebacker and defensive end . . . Recorded 62 tackles (36 solos), 4.5 sacks and 9 stops for 29 yards in losses.
8	Willie **GREEN** *SE*	6-3, 180	**Mississippi**	Rewrote the Ole Miss record books . . . Averaged 19.9 yards per catch, which ranked second in the SEC . . . Holds the school career record for reception yards with 2,274.
8	Roman **FORTIN** *OG*	6-4, 265	**San Diego State**	Began as a tight end at Oregon State and transferred in 1988, earning a starting job.
9	Jack **LINN** *OL*	6-5, 278	**West Virginia**	All-East selection by the Associated Press . . . All-ECAC.
10	Bill **MILLER** *WR*	5-10, 180	**Illinois State**	Finished his career as the school's No. 2 all-time leading receiver with 109 receptions for 1,350 yards and 10 TDs . . . Led the team in 1989 with 28 receptions . . . Also returned punts and kick-offs and for his career, had 46 kickoff returns for 927 yards and 22 punt returns for 146 yards.
11	Reginald **WARNSLEY** *FB*	5-10, 215	**Southern Mississippi**	Was second on the team with 445 yards on 109 carries in 1989 . . . A strong, bruising runner.
12	Robert **CLAIBORNE** *WR*	5-10, 175	**San Diego State**	His senior season ranked No. 2 as a receiver . . . Caught 55 passes for 938 yards and 5 TDs (17.1 avg.).

LIONS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	LIONS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	274	314
Rushing	117	98
Passing	139	189
Penalty	18	27
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	63/189	83/220
4th Down: Made/Atts.	8/13	10/14
TOTAL NET YARDS	4992	5537
Avg. Per Game	312.0	346.1
Total Plays	928	1064
Avg. Per Play	5.4	5.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	2053	1621
Avg. Per Game	128.3	101.3
Total Rushes	421	454
NET YARDS PASSING	2939	3916
Avg. Per Game	183.7	244.8
Tackled/Yards Lost	57/343	40/277
Gross Yards	3282	4193
Attempts/Completions	450/229	570/370
Pct. of Completions	50.9	64.9
Had Intercepted	24	16
PUNTS/AVERAGE	83/42.6	80/41.2
NET PUNTING AVG.	36.0	31.8
PENALTIES/YARDS	121/977	107/993
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	37/24	28/16
TOUCHDOWNS	36	42
Rushing	23	18
Passing	11	19
Returns	2	5

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
LIONS	68	108	65	71	0	312
OPP. TOTAL	29	156	89	87	3	364

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Murray	0-0	3-3	8-9	8-8	1-1	20-21

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
B. Sanders	280	1470	5.3	34	14
Gagliano	41	192	4.7	19	4
Peete	33	148	4.5	14	4

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Johnson	70	1091	15.6	t75	8
Clark	41	748	18.2	69	2
Phillips	30	352	11.7	t55	1
Stanley	24	304	12.7	37	0
B. Sanders	24	282	11.8	46	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Holmes	6	77	12.8	36	1
J. Williams	5	15	3.0	9	0
Gibson	1	10	10.0	10	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Arnold	82	3538	43.1	9	15	64	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Stanley	36	4	496	13.8	74	0
Gray	11	2	76	6.9	15	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Gray	24	640	26.7	57	0
Palmer	11	255	23.2	62	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Gagliano	232	117	1671	50.4	7.20	6	2.6	12	5.2	t75	25/145	61.1
Peete	195	103	1479	52.8	7.58	5	2.6	9	4.6	69	27/172	67.2

CHICAGO BEARS

DITKA IS READY TO CLAW

BY DAN POMPEI

The Bears of a year ago were forced to realize the past is buried and the future hasn't arrived. Worse, they learned the bridge between eras was a rickety structure that was liable to collapse from the wind of one of Mike Ditka's outbursts.

Whether or not that bridge has fortified itself will determine the Bears' fate in 1990. Ditka says it has.

"The [NFC Central] division is going to be tough," Ditka said. "In the past I said everybody has a chance to win it. This year I say we're going to win. We don't care who likes it, who doesn't like it."

The Bears are counting on help from within, and their justification is understandable. The Bears' drafts of 1988 and 1989 hold great promise and the myriad of injuries that struck Chicago the past two seasons have to let up sooner or later.

By citing their 4-4 record against playoff teams last season, the Bears can tell themselves they still are doing some things right. They can also trot out the record of their opponents in games not against the Bears (145-94-1) and take solace that they played the NFL's toughest schedule.

An oil can, not a wrecking ball, is the instrument Ditka has chosen to straighten the course of the Bears.

"In our case, it's really not starting over," Ditka said. "It's reaffirming the things we think we can do."

But the Bears can't be entirely sure of themselves because of the severity of their collapse. There were a lot of physical beatings along the way to a 6-10 record.

Getting thrashed was a new experience for the world beaters of the mid-1980s, and they were ill-prepared to handle it. The Bears stopped believing in themselves quickly, and their loss of confidence was hastened by Ditka's insensitivity.

The logic around Halas Hall is this — if the Bears recapture their confidence they can recapture their winning ways.

"The nucleus is still here," Ditka said. "There's still a lot of quality and character on this football club that plays hard, tries to win and believes we can win."

It's up to Ditka to convince those who aren't in that category. If he can sell confidence as well as he sells foreign cars, credit cards and soup, the Bears could be Super Bowl-bound.

"I believe everything is based on your attitude and how you perceive yourself," Ditka said. "If you perceive yourself as a losing team, you're going to be a losing team. I don't think our guys have that problem."

Ditka himself had that problem last season. Twice during the course of the year he said he doubted his team could win again. Once, with four games remaining, he was right.

Afterward, he gave himself a failing grade for his 1989 performance. He said the depressed state that losing put him in forced him to take frustrations out on players, assistants and family members who deserved better.

Time to recharge and think has turned Ditka's dark moods to bright. He pledges he will be positive with no lapses.

While Bears president Michael McCaskey said he had no doubt that Ditka is the right man to guide the team, he expressed disapproval with Ditka's sideline blowups and ubiquitous commercial presence. Following McCaskey's wishes in 1990 could ensure future employment for Ditka, whose contract expires after the season.

Ditka has expressed a desire to continue coaching in 1991, health permitting. McCaskey hasn't jumped at the opportunity to extend his contract.

Having a leader who isn't committed past this season could have an affect on players, although Ditka said he doesn't think it will.

"Why would they worry about my contract?" Ditka said. "They should worry about their contracts and whether or not they have one after 1990."

The future of Ditka isn't the only uncertainty facing the Bears. As usual, they don't know who will be behind center Jay Hilgenberg when the season commences.

Jim Harbaugh and Mike Tomczak are the contenders, although neither distinguished himself last season in the wake of Jim McMahon's departure to San Diego.

Tomczak played pretty well for the first four games until a shoulder injury threw him off. He never regained his command of the game and the team.

Harbaugh played young, which is all anyone should have expected from the Michigan grad in his third season. Last season gave Harbaugh his first tastes and tests of playing in the NFL. He had the highest completion rate for a season in Bears' history

Mike Singletary's glare makes opposing ball carriers cringe.

JONATHAN DANIEL / ALLSPORT

— but a major reason was that he frequently threw to backs who were serving as outlet valves.

The off-season priority of Harbaugh was the mental aspect of his game. He spent many hours with his playbook and video cassettes trying to get a better grasp on the defensive coverages teams attack the Bears with and the best ways to respond.

While Harbaugh worked diligently at fine-tuning his understanding of the Bears' passing system, Tomczak worked diligently at rehabilitating from minor shoulder surgery. At the same time, Tomczak's agent was working on getting Tomczak on a new contract.

Bears personnel boss Bill Tobin said the quarterbacking will improve when the defense does. Despite the quarterback difficulties, the Bears' offense actually made strides last season, and it was efficient enough to win if it had been paired with a capable defense.

But the Bears' defense plummeted from being the second-ranked unit in the league in 1988 to the 25th-ranked defense last year.

Why?

Lots of reasons. The Bears were 4-0 until defensive tackle Dan Hampton succumbed to knee surgery. They were 2-10 without him.

Hampton's injury was one of many on defense. There were 23 defensive starters over 16 games. Some teams don't even carry 23 defensive players.

Bandages and crutches weren't all that went wrong with the defense. Big plays caused the biggest aches. The Bears' defense allowed 35 plays of 20 yards or more.

"That's where you're dead in the water," Ditka says.

The Bears' defense also was dead in the water in any foot race. Improving defensive speed was a draft day priority. Defensive coordinator Vince Tobin said the lack of speed was particularly evident in the Bears' pass rush. The Bears had a lot of near sacks last season.

The defensive line once was the cornerstone of the Bears. Now, it's basically a series of question marks.

If defensive tackle William Perry is playing when the season opens, it means he either will have licked his weight problem or survived a hollow threat from Ditka. After last season, Ditka said one way or another, a slimmer man would be occupying Perry's locker next season. He said he wanted Perry to weigh 285 like Perry's brother, Michael Dean Perry of the Browns. In the off-season, the Bears weighed Perry regularly and talked about getting him to enter a weight loss clinic again.

At the weight Perry played at last season, his value as a pass rusher was nil. He remained a force against the run, however.

Perry wasn't the only lineman Ditka wanted slimmed down. He also said defensive end Richard Dent was 15 pounds overweight last season and thought it showed in Dent's quickness.

A thinner Dent could be used as a roving pass-rusher like Green Bay's Tim Harris. Ditka said the Bears have played into the hands of opponents by lining Dent up over the same tackle down after down.

The Bears' other defensive end, Trace Armstrong, needs to continue to improve. As a rookie last season, Armstrong was asked to start and excel. He played well and has the potential to play much better.

There were times it appeared that neither defensive tackle, Steve McMichael nor Hampton, would be in orange and blue this season. McMichael demanded a renegotiated contract or trade, the Bears scoffed and

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
35	**Anderson**, Neal	RB	5-11	210	5	Florida
93	**Armstrong**, Trace	DE	6-4	259	1	Florida
FA	**Becker**, Kurt	G	6-5	269	9	Michigan
33	**Bero**, Bryan	FB	6-0	235	2	Utah
62	**Bortz**, Mark	G	6-6	272	8	Iowa
86	**Boso**, Cap	TE	6-3	240	4	Illinois
8	**Buford**, Maury	P	6-0	198	9	Texas Tech
6	**Butler**, Kevin	K	6-1	204	6	Georgia
94	**Chapura**, Dick	DT	6-3	275	3	Missouri
89	**Coley**, James	TE	6-3	270	2	Clemson
74	**Covert**, Jim	T	6-4	278	8	Pittsburgh
82	**Davis**, Wendell	WR	5-11	188	3	LSU
95	**Dent**, Richard	DE	6-5	268	8	Tennessee State
37	**Douglass**, Maurice	DB	5-11	200	5	Kentucky
22	**Duerson**, Dave	S	6-1	212	8	Notre Dame
68	**Dyko**, Chris	T	6-6	295	2	Washington State
67	**Fontenot**, Jerry	G	6-3	272	2	Texas A&M
23	**Gayle**, Shaun	S	5-11	194	7	Ohio State
29	**Gentry**, Dennis	WR	5-8	180	9	Baylor
31	**Green**, Mark	HB	5-11	184	2	Notre Dame
99	**Hampton**, Dan	DT	6-5	274	12	Arkansas
4	**Harbaugh**, Jim	QB	6-3	204	4	Michigan
63	**Hilgenberg**, Jay	C	6-3	260	10	Iowa
58	**Hyche**, Steve	LB	6-3	236	2	Livingston
24	**Jackson**, Vestee	CB	6-0	186	5	Washington
92	**Johnson**, Troy	LB	6-0	236	3	Oklahoma
53	**Jones**, Dante	LB	6-1	236	3	Oklahoma
88	**Kozlowski**, Glen	WR	6-1	205	4	BYU
43	**Lynch**, Lorenzo	DB	5-9	199	4	Cal State-Sacramento

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
85	**McKinnon**, Dennis	WR	6-1	177	7	Florida State
76	**McMichael**, Steve	DT	6-2	268	11	Texas
84	**Morris**, Ron	WR	6-1	195	4	SMU
51	**Morrissey**, Jim	LB	6-3	227	6	Michigan State
25	**Muster**, Brad	FB	6-3	231	3	Stanford
36	**Paul**, Markus	S	6-2	199	2	Syracuse
72	**Perry**, William	DT	6-2	330	6	Clemson
52	**Pruitt**, Mickey	LB	6-1	215	3	Colorado
59	**Rivera**, Ron	LB	6-3	240	7	California
55	**Roper**, John	LB	6-1	228	1	Texas A&M
20	**Sanders**, Thomas	RB	5-11	203	6	Texas A&M
75	**Shannon**, John	DT	6-3	270	3	Kentucky
50	**Singletary**, Mike	LB	6-0	230	10	Baylor
12	**Snyder**, Brent	QB	6-3	225	1	Utah State
32	**Stinson**, Lemuel	DB	5-9	159	3	Texas Tech
30	**Streeter**, George	SS	6-2	212	1	Notre Dame
26	**Suhey**, Matt	FB	5-11	213	11	Penn State
FA	**Sullivan**, Kent	P	6-0	210	1	Cal Lutheran
49	**Tate**, David	DB	6-0	177	3	Colorado
27	**Taylor**, Brian	RB	5-10	175	1	Oregon State
57	**Thayer**, Tom	G	6-4	270	6	Notre Dame
80	**Thornton**, Jim	TE	6-2	242	3	Cal State-Fullerton
18	**Tomczak**, Mike	QB	6-1	198	6	Ohio State
78	**Van Horne**, Keith	T	6-6	283	10	USC
87	**Waddle**, Tom	WR	6-0	181	1	Boston College
73	**Wojciechowski**, John	G	6-4	270	4	Michigan State
65	**Woods**, Tony	DT	6-4	274	1	Oklahoma
21	**Woolford**, Donnell	DB	5-9	187	1	Clemson
64	**Zawatson**, Dave	T	6-4	274	11	California

BEARS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Mark **CARRIER** *FS*	6-1, 180	**Southern California**	Outstanding athlete with great range and speed . . . Winner of the Jim Thorpe Award . . . Tied for 11th in the nation with 7 interceptions for 58 yards in returns . . . Made 107 tackles (68 solos), recovered 3 fumbles and deflected 10 passes.
2	Fred **WASHINGTON** *DT*	6-2, 277	**Texas Christian**	Rushes the passer extremely well . . . Bench presses over 400 pounds . . . Missed three complete games and saw limited action in three others due to an ankle sprain and still managed to record 47 tackles (29 solos) with 3 sacks and 9 stops for 36 yards in losses.
2	Ron **COX** *OLB-ROV*	6-2, 242	**Fresno State**	Holds the school's career quarterback sack record with 50 . . . Established a Bulldog season record by recording 28 sacks . . . Led the team with a career high 104 tackles (62 solos) and had 40 stops for 225 yards in losses . . . Caused 5 fumbles and 27 quarterback pressures.
3	Tim **RYAN** *DE*	6-4, 268	**Southern California**	Dominating, big play type . . . Was a Junior Olympic boxing champion . . . Finished third on the team with 103 tackles (68 solos) and set season record with 20 sacks.
3	Peter Tom **WILLIS** *QB*	6-2, 188	**Florida State**	Ranks third on the Seminoles' all-time passing list with 4,291 yards and fifth with 24 TD tosses . . . Completed 211 of 346 passes (61.0%) for 3,124 yards and 20 TDs . . . Had the second best passing day in school history throwing for 482 yards, hitting on 23 of 31 attempts with 6 TDs as the Seminoles rolled to a 57-20 demolishing of Memphis State.
4	Tony **MOSS** *WR*	5-7, 169	**Louisiana State**	Closed out career third on the Tigers' all-time list with 139 receptions . . . Led the team and ranked second in the conference with 59 receptions for 934 yards (15.8 avg.) and 9 TDs in 1989.
5	Pat **CHAFFEY** *FB*	6-1, 218	**Oregon State**	Ranks tenth on the school's all-time rushing chart with 1,421 yards, sixth in scoring with 140 points, fifth in receiving with 124 catches and fifth in all-purpose running with 2,714 yards.
6	John **MANGUM** *CB*	5-11, 173	**Alabama**	Has 16 interceptions in career, tied for the school career record . . . Ranked third on team with 68 tackles . . . Led the squad with 5 interceptions for 37 yards in returns and 24 pass deflections.
7	Bill **ANDERSON** *C-OG*	6-3, 267	**Iowa**	Has 5.17 speed in the 40 . . . Compiled a string of 33 consecutive starts for the Hawkeyes . . . Consummate team player.
8	James **ROUSE** *RB*	6-1, 222	**Arkansas**	Rushed for 2,887 career yards, including 869 last season . . . Best season was 1987 when he rushed for 1,004 yards on 182 carries and scored 17 TDs . . . Had 43 career receptions.
9	Johnny **BAILEY** *TB*	5-8, 176	**Texas A&I**	Holder of virtually every NCAA, Lone Star Conference and school game, season, playoff and career rushing records . . . Has run for 6,320 yards . . . Holds the NCAA records in rushing, surpassing the previous NCAA national mark (all levels) of 6,082 yards by Pittsburgh Heisman Trophy winner Tony Dorsett (1973-76).
10	Terry **PRICE** *DE*	6-5, 272	**Texas A&M**	Second team All-American . . . All-Southwest Conference selection . . . Led the team down linemen with 57 tackles (23 solos) and 14 QB pressures.
11	Brent **WHITE** *DT*	6-5, 248	**Michigan**	Tied for third on the team in tackles for loss with 7 for 38 yards in losses . . . Tied for third in QB sacks with 4.
11	Roman **MATUSZ** *OT*	6-4, 282	**Pittsburgh**	Powerful drive blocker with quick feet and fine body control . . . Takes advantage of his long arms to consistently stay with his blocks . . . Slides his feet well and changes direction sharply.
12	Anthony **COONEY** *CB-S*	6-1, 204	**Arkansas**	Has 4.61 speed in the 40 . . . All-Southwest Conference . . . Recorded 37 tackles (26 solos) with 3 pass break-ups and 3 interceptions for 14 yards in returns.

things got ugly.

As for Hampton, his career appeared past its expiration date after his 10th knee operation last season. But the 33-year-old says he has one more season left in him and the Bears dearly want to believe him.

Without Hampton and McMichael to occupy blockers, middle linebacker Mike Singletary's job becomes a lot more difficult. At 31 and with seven straight Pro Bowls behind him, Singletary still is performing at a remarkable level. How much longer he can maintain his excellence is unknown. Singletary has considered retiring after this season but his ability probably won't let him.

Flanking Singletary is solid Ron Rivera and either Jim Morrissey or John Roper. Morrissey was playing splendidly until a lacerated kidney ended his season in October. Roper took over and was brilliant in flashes but inconsistent overall.

There also could be competition at safety, where improving David Tate could press somebody for playing time. Strong safety Dave Duerson has four Pro Bowls on his resume, but is coming off a disappointing season due mostly to injuries. Free safety Shaun Gayle also had his share of injuries but was the most productive player in the defensive backfield.

Cornerback Donnell Woolford wasn't far behind, even though he was a rookie. If Woolford learns to give up fewer big plays, he can be one of the best cover men in the league.

Woolford's partner in pass coverage, Vestee Jackson, had an off-year but is more than capable.

Catching balls wasn't as problematic as batting them down for the Bears last season. Not that receivers were the strength of the team, but, Dennis Gentry, Ron Morris, Dennis McKinnon and Wendell Davis performed adequately.

There will be changes this season. Morris and Davis have been promoted to the starting lineup, McKinnon has taken a Plan B exit to Dallas and Gentry has been relegated to nickel situations.

In the past, the Bears alternated receivers and tight ends by series but now they want to play two receivers and one tight end the whole game. The thinking is this will allow the starters to get a better feel for the flow of the game and promote physical harmony amongst the offense.

Jim Thornton is expected to take over at tight end and the Bears hope the accomplished body mover can fulfill the receiving potential he showed at the start of last season.

Neal Anderson is the latest running star for Bears. ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

Elsewhere on the offensive line, Hilgenberg, guard Mark Bortz and tackle Jim Covert probably won't be challenged, but guard Tom Thayer and tackle Keith Van Horne might be. The Bears say they aren't planning to keep the starters together for a sixth straight year, although it could turn out that way.

"In the past, you would just go in with it set, but I think we have a couple of young players with potential," offensive coordinator Greg Landry said.

Those players are second-year guard Jerry Fontenot and second-year tackle Chris Dyko. Although neither played much as rookies, both impressed those who dole out playing time.

Blockers might have a more difficult task this season as the Bears' ball carriers have changed. Gone are halfback Thomas Sanders and fullback Matt Suhey, a pair of reserves who performed like starters.

Starting fullback Brad Muster proved he has the ability last season; but, now he might not have the health. A herniated disc in his lower back gave him off-season difficulties. The other starter, halfback Neal Anderson, was asking for a bushel full of money after back-to-back Pro Bowls and 1,000-yard seasons. He got it, too.

Until Anderson signed, second-year man Mark Green was the only certainty in the backfield. With only five pro carries behind him, the Bears can count on Green only as a punt returner.

Like many teams, the Bears studied what the 49ers did right last season and hope to borrow from San Francisco's playbook. Harbaugh even studied Joe Montana's footwork, and that's significant because if the Bears copy the 49ers they'll be relying on their quarterback more.

"The burden on that offense goes to the quarterback," Ditka said. "He has to get rid of the ball because there are some instances where we can't protect him."

Now if only the Bears could copy the 49ers' success.❑

BEARS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	BEARS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	302	333
Rushing	136	118
Passing	147	191
Penalty	19	23
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	94/214	84/206
4th Down: Made/Atts.	10/18	7/15
TOTAL NET YARDS	5375	5729
Avg. Per Game	335.9	358.1
Total Plays	1028	1039
Avg. Per Play	5.2	5.5
NET YARDS RUSHING	2287	1897
Avg. Per Game	142.9	118.6
Total Rushes	516	446
NET YARDS PASSING	3088	3832
Avg. Per Game	193.0	239.5
Tackled/Yards Lost	28/174	39/247
Gross Yards	3262	4079
Attempts/Completions	484/267	554/307
Pct. of Completions	55.2	55.4
Had Intercepted	25	26
PUNTS/AVERAGE	72/39.5	67/39.6
NET PUNTING AVG.	33.4	34.6
PENALTIES/YARDS	95/846	95/802
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	23/17	24/12
TOUCHDOWNS	45	43
Rushing	22	21
Passing	21	21
Returns	2	1

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
BEARS	40	108	82	128	0	358
OPP. TOTAL	69	111	72	125	0	377

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Butler	0-0	6-6	6-7	3-5	0-1	15-19

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Anderson	274	1275	4.7	73	11
Muster	82	327	4.0	20	5
Harbaugh	45	276	6.1	t26	3

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Anderson	50	434	8.7	t49	4
Gentry	39	463	11.9	t79	1
Muster	32	259	8.1	25	3
Morris	30	486	16.2	t58	1
McKinnon	28	418	14.9	41	3

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Stinson	4	59	14.8	t29	1
Lynch	3	55	18.3	41	0
Gayle	3	39	13.0	20	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Buford	72	2844	39.5	9	21	60	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Green	16	5	141	8.8	24	0
McKinnon	10	3	67	6.7	17	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Gentry	28	667	23.8	63	0
Sanders	23	491	21.3	t96	1

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Tomczak	306	156	2058	51.0	6.73	16	5.2	16	5.2	t79	10/68	68.2
Harbaugh	178	111	1204	62.4	6.76	5	2.8	9	5.1	t49	18/106	70.5

GREEN BAY PACKERS

IS THE PACK ALL THE WAY BACK?

BY BOB MCGINN

Pro football was as good as it gets in Green Bay last season.

No, the Packers weren't a championship team, although they were one of only two clubs to defeat Super Bowl winner San Francisco.

They didn't even reach the playoffs; their 10-6 record tied Minnesota for the NFC Central Division title but the best division record tie-breaker gave the edge and the crown to the Vikings.

Ultimately, the Packers were utterly deflated, forced to watch from their living rooms as Minnesota stole their hopes with a victory over Cincinnati in the NFL's final game of the season.

"Have you ever been to a funeral?" said linebacker Brian Noble, depicting the mood at the end.

But the depression couldn't — and didn't — linger in the NFL's smallest city. Because not only did the Packers post their best season since 1972, they also provided their faithful fans with untold joy as undoubtedly the most exciting team in the league.

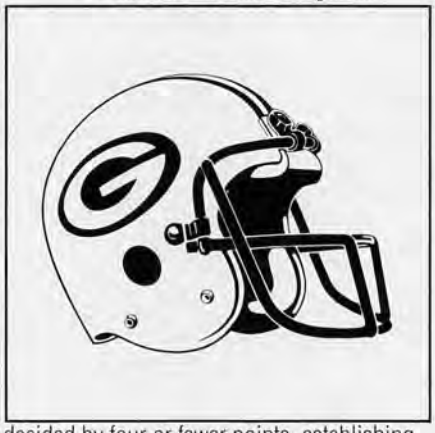
"For a team to come as far as this one has in two years ... I'll always have great memories about this year," Coach Lindy Infante said in summation. "We spent ourselves in a good cause. These guys played over their heads on many occasions and played up to their capabilities on most occasions."

America's real team. The Cardiac Pack. Destiny's children.

Those were some of the appelations bestowed on the Packers during their return to respectability and beyond for the first time since Richard Nixon was beginning his second term in office.

With many experts forecasting no better than a one- or two-game upgrade from Infante's 4-12 debut in 1988, the Packers:

- Improved six games, the sixth best single-season turnaround by any team in the 1980s.
- Rose from fifth to a tie for first in the NFC Central.
- Defeated arch-rival Chicago twice for the first time since 1981; they hadn't beaten the Bears since December 1984.
- Stunned the 49ers as an 11-point underdog at Candlestick Park for probably their most significant triumph of the decade.
- Posted a 7-3 record in games



decided by four or fewer points, establishing an NFL record with four one-point victories in one season.

"At the beginning of the year, I said if we finished 8-8 it would be a successful year," said Tom Braatz, executive vice president of football operations.

For once Packer fans and players could look to the future without fear and make-believe optimism. As the new season dawns, the Packers are as well-positioned as the Vikings to establish primacy in the division.

"If there will be a team of the 90s, it will be the Green Bay Packers," Noble bravely predicted.

But are the Packers really headed for an extended run of prosperity? Was their '89 success as much a by-product of having a fifth-place schedule and an amazing string of favorable officiating calls?

Remember, this is a team that didn't overwhelm many opponents, outscoring them just 362-356 and outgaining them on average, 361-334.

"I'm confident we can take the next step, "Infante said. "I would hope we'd be up to the competition, whatever level that might be, and we could go on and get into the playoffs."

The Packers' agenda for the new decade will be to sustain Infante's explosive "Pass to Daylight" offense while providing irrepressible Tim Harris with some help on defense.

That was the theme of the '90 draft. The hope is that some of the new players will bolster a pass rush that relied too heavily on Harris, whose 19 1/2 sacks accounted for an NFL-high 57.4 percent of his team's total.

"We've got a way to go people-wise yet in order to be a contender," said Braatz, ever the realist.

Harris, an imposing outside linebacker given freedom by defensive coordinator Hank Bullough to create mayhem up and down the line, was the crown jewel on a team that developed two other impact players to revive a moribund offense.

One was Don Majkowski, who solved a 20-year dilemma at quarterback with a phenomenal Pro Bowl season. He was second to Joe Montana in MVP balloting.

The other was Sterling Sharpe, who answered Infante's plea for a big-play wide receiver to make his pass-predicated attack special. He led the NFL in receptions with 90 and only the great Jerry Rice had more yards.

There were, of course, some others who lifted their performance levels well above ordinary.

Kicker Chris Jacke had five chances to determine the outcome of games, four times in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter and once in overtime. He didn't fail once.

"You have to have one of those guys," said Infante, not forgetful of having gone through four kickers his first year. "We don't

win the close games, we've had a terrible year. I believe that separates the good teams from the other teams."

Fullback Brent Fullwood, an underachieving first-round draft choice in 1987, became a pro with 821 yards as the Packers improved their yards per carry from 3.6 to 4.4.

Ken Ruettgers, another No. 1 pick, spearheaded an efficient offensive line with superior pass blocking at left tackle, the most difficult position.

Those were the leading men who emerged on a team that hadn't had a Pro Bowl pick since 1985. But the improved quality of the bit players was almost as marked.

Green Bay dipped into Plan B for an NFL-high 20 players, eight of whom made the roster. They added talent on the field and maturity off, creating an environment that fostered togetherness and winning.

"I wish we could stay together forever," linebacker Johnny Holland said at year's end. "We had good chemistry. A lot of guys got along real good."

As vital as playing personnel is in a business that knows few shortcuts, the Packers appear equally well staffed in the front office and coaching ranks.

Infante was virtually a consensus pick as NFL Coach of the Year. He was hired for the hands-on approach he takes to his own offense, but his performance as a motivator and administrator has been commendable as well.

"He's intense but he's not intense," guard Billy Ard said. "Even when we lost two in a row or weren't playing well, he's always even. I think that's so important to be a real good coach in this league."

Infante was rewarded with a two-year contract extension following the season.

Braatz was brought on board in February 1987 on a separate-but-equal basis with then coach Forrest Gregg. It was the first time since the Lombardi era that the team's coach wasn't the supreme authority on football decisions.

The low-key, hard-working Braatz gave the Packers the front-office direction and expertise they lacked during the Bengston, Devine, Starr and Gregg regimes. When Robert Parins stepped down as club president in '89, his only regret was not having hired Braatz or someone like him years earlier.

"If you've got a great football man and you leave him alone and you get a little lucky, things can get done," said Dick Steinberg, the Jets' general manager. "That's what happened in Green Bay."

Parins' successor, Bob Harlan, made a nice debut as the third key figure in the decision-making hierarchy. He helped defuse some veteran holdouts who had potential to be equally as debilitating as numerous others were in recent years.

"I think he (Harlan) wants to win as much as Lindy and myself," Braatz.said. "Everybody's together on this thing, and that's what's important."

Said Infante: "I'm not sitting here fooling with the ego of an owner. Everybody's responsibilities are clearly defined. I feel I've got the best coaching job in the (NFL)."

One story line that will continue to command national attention in Green Bay is the development of tackle Tony Mandarich.

Hailed as the greatest offensive line prospect to enter the league, Mandarich was a total non-contributor as a late-signing rookie. He was judged such a liability in pass protection that the Packers dared play him on just nine series in 14 games. It figured out to about $10,000 per offensive snap, which only fanned the cries of

Dan Majkowski is Green Bay's newest Starr. ALLEN DEAN STEELE

"bust" from almost every quarter.

Mandarich expects to unseat Alan Veingrad at right tackle by the start of the regular season. "If I don't, there's definitely a big problem with me," he said.

Offensive line coach Charlie Davis gave a less - than - resounding affirmative reply in the off-season when asked if he believes Mandarich will develop into an effective pass-blocker at tackle. Mandarich may be better suited for guard.

Another unresolved issued on the offensive line is at center, where Blair Bush is near the end and James Campen is unproven.

There is quality and depth at guard, where Rich Moran was a second alternate to the Pro Bowl, Ron Hallstrom was effective and energized in his eighth season and Dave Croston has a promising future if he can keep out of the trainer's room.

"I don't think we're a great group, but we're solid," Davis said.

Ed West was the NFC alternate at tight end. Another over-achiever, Perry Kemp, has posted back-to-back 48-reception seasons. Jeff Query, a 4.3 sprinter from Division III Millikin College, was one of the '89 draft steals from his fifth-round position.

Fullwood isn't without fault. He doesn't handle injuries very well, is barely adequate as a blocker and labors when his pass pattern calls for more than a dump-off.

Yet, opponents respect Fullwood because he runs extremely hard between the tackles and is a threat to go the distance.

Keith Woodside (59 catches) and Herman Fontenot (40) are almost as much wide receivers as halfbacks in Infante's spread-the-field offense. Michael Haddix and Vince Workman fill out a solid corps of runners.

The main reason why the Packers were able to leap from 24th to sixth in total offense was Majkowski. He passed often and accurately to lead the league in several statistical categories, trailed only Randall Cunningham among quarterbacks with 358 yards rushing and inspired the entire team with his chutzpah.

Majkowski always had special physical gifts. The difference in '89 was that he quickened his delivery, became even more dedicated to understanding defenses and continued to blossom as a pinpoint passer.

"I think Majkowski is a budding young Montana," 49ers Coach George Seifert said.

Defensively, the Packers slipped from seventh to 16th in total yards. They had the oldest unit in the NFL and it showed early in the season. But the proud veterans recouped at midseason and wound up fourth in turnovers with 41.

Obviously, the Packers need pass- rushers to go with Harris. End Shawn Patterson, coming off knee ligament surgery, is the only defensive lineman with pass-rushing potential.

With the retirement of John Anderson, Scott Stephen steps in at left outside linebacker. Stephen has done little in three seasons, but has the explosiveness and speed to run and hit.

Noble and Holland are quality inside linebackers, as are Mark Murphy and Chuck Cecil at safety. Dave Brown (37) and Mark Lee (32) return at cornerback provided neither suffers significant deterioration in his level of performance.

Aside from Jacke's magnificent first season, the special teams were woeful. Green Bay was 28th in punt and kickoff coverage and just 19th (punt) and 22nd (kickoff) in returns.

If the Packers are to prove that '89 wasn't a fluke they must do it against a much tougher schedule. Their opponents last season finished with a winning percentage of .436, the easiest schedule in the league. Their '90 opponents had a winning percentage of .514 last year.

"We're still trying to find our identity," Ard said. "We don't know what we can do yet."

All of Wisconsin waits to find out.❑

Tim Harris plays as big as he talks.
JOHN STEWART / ALLSPORT

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
82	**Affholter**, Erik	WR	5-11	181	1	Southern California
43	**Aielts**, Rick	TE	6-5	245	1	Southeast Missouri State
67	**Ard**, Billy	G	6-3	270	10	Wake Forest
76	**Ariey**, Mike	T	6-5	285	2	San Diego State
31	**Avery**, Steve	FB	6-2	230	1	Northern Michigan
83	**Bland**, Carl	WR	5-11	182	7	Virginia Union
61	**Boyarsky**, Jerry	NT	6-3	290	10	Pittsburgh
17	**Bracken**, Don	P	6-1	211	6	Michigan
62	**Brock**, Matt	DE	6-4	267	2	Oregon
32	**Brown**, Dave	CB	6-1	197	16	Michigan
93	**Brown**, Robert	DE	6-2	267	9	Virginia Tech
51	**Bush**, Blair	C	6-3	272	13	Washington
63	**Campen**, James	C-G	6-3	270	4	Tulane
26	**Cecil**, Chuck	S	6-0	184	3	Arizona
58	**Chubb**, Aaron	LB	6-5	235	1	Georgia
55	**Clark**, Greg	LB	6-1	234	3	Arizona State
92	**Cribbs**, James	DE	6-3	269	2	Memphis State
60	**Croston**, Dave	T-G	6-5	280	2	Iowa
49	**Dee**, Donnie	TE	6-4	252	3	Tulsa
56	**Dent**, Burnell	LB	6-1	236	5	Tulane
80	**Didier**, Clint	TE	6-5	240	9	Portland State
8	**Dilweg**, Anthony	QB	6-3	215	2	Duke
99	**Dorsey**, John	LB	6-2	243	6	Connecticut
94	**Fears**, Willie	DE	6-5	285	2	Northwestern Louisiana State
27	**Fontenot**, Herman	RB	6-0	206	6	Louisiana State
30	**Frazier**, Paul	RB	5-8	196	2	Northwestern Louisiana State
21	**Fullwood**, Brent	FB	5-11	209	4	Auburn
23	**Greene**, Tiger	S	6-0	194	6	Western Carolina
35	**Haddix**, Michael	FB	6-2	227	8	Mississippi State
72	**Hall**, Mark	DE	6-4	285	2	Southwestern Louisiana
65	**Hallstrom**, Ron	G	6-6	290	9	Iowa
97	**Harris**, Tim	LB	6-5	250	5	Memphis State
48	**Harris**, William	TE	6-5	250	3	Bishop College
5	**Hatcher**, Dale	P	6-2	240	6	Clemson
50	**Holland**, Johnny	LB	6-2	221	4	Texas A&M

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
44	**Holmes**, Jerry	CB	6-2	175	9	West Virginia
13	**Jacke**, Chris	K	6-0	197	2	Texas-El Paso
24	**Jakes**, Van	CB	6-0	190	7	Kent State
88	**Johnson**, Flip	WR	5-10	185	3	McNeese State
53	**Johnson**, M.L.	LB	6-3	229	4	Hawaii
81	**Kemp**, Perry	WR	5-11	170	3	California (PA)
10	**Kiel**, Blair	QB	6-0	214	6	Notre Dame
22	**Lee**, Mark	CB	5-11	189	11	Washington
7	**Majkowski**, Don	QB	6-2	197	4	Virginia
77	**Mandarich**, Tony	T	6-5	300	2	Michigan State
98	**Miller**, Shawn	DE	6-4	270	7	Utah State
57	**Moran**, Rich	G	6-2	275	6	San Diego State
37	**Murphy**, Mark	S	6-2	201	9	West Liberty State
79	**Nelson**, Bob	NT	6-4	275	3	Miami (FL)
91	**Noble**, Brian	LB	6-3	252	6	Arizona State
6	**Norseth**, Mike	QB	6-2	205	3	Kansas
96	**Patterson**, Shawn	DE	6-5	261	3	Arizona State
34	**Perkins**, Nico	S	6-0	209	1	Memphis State
28	**Pitts**, Ron	CB	5-10	175	5	UCLA
85	**Query**, Jeff	WR	5-11	165	2	Millikin
75	**Ruettgers**, Ken	T	6-5	280	6	Southern California
84	**Sharpe**, Sterling	WR	5-11	202	3	South Carolina
9	**Shulman**, Brian	P	5-9	185	1	Auburn
89	**Spagnola**, John	TE	6-4	242	11	Yale
54	**Stephen**, Scott	LB	6-2	232	4	Arizona State
70	**Uecker**, Keith	G-T	6-5	284	7	Auburn
73	**Veingrad**, Alan	T	6-5	277	4	East Texas State
87	**Weathers**, Clarence	WR	5-9	180	8	Delaware State
52	**Weddington**, Mike	LB	6-4	245	5	Oklahoma
86	**West**, Ed	TE	6-1	243	7	Auburn
68	**Winter**, Blaise	DE-NT	6-3	275	6	Syracuse
39	**Woods**, Jerry	S	5-10	191	1	Northern Michigan
33	**Woodside**, Keith	RB	5-11	203	3	Texas A&M
46	**Workman**, Vince	RB	5-10	193	2	Ohio State
64	**Yarno**, George	C-G	6-2	270	11	Washington State

PACKERS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Tony **BENNETT** *OLB*	6-2, 234	**Mississippi**	Team leader with great speed and tremendous strength . . . Bench presses 425 pounds with a 600 pound squat . . . All-Southeastern Conference . . . Finished fifth on the team with 77 tackles (53 solos), 3 sacks and 14 stops for 55 yards in losses.
1	Darrell **THOMPSON** *HB*	6-1, 219	**Minnesota**	Holds the Gopher all-time rushing record with 4,518 yards . . . Has 40 TDs on the ground, surpassing previous record of 33 . . . Has 4.42 speed in the 40 . . . . In 1989 played in ten games, rushing for 1,139 yards and 10 TDs on 260 carries.
2	Leroy **BUTLER** *CB-FS*	5-11, 193	**Florida State**	Ferocious tackler with fine strength and leaping skills . . . Third on the team with 94 tackles (53 solos), 1 sack and 3 stops for 16 yards in losses . . . Deflected 9 passes and ranked 11th in the nation with 7 interceptions.
3	Bobby **HOUSTON** *OLB*	6-2, 230	**North Carolina State**	4.46 speed in the 40 . . . Bench presses over 420 pounds . . . Had a career high 82 tackles (44 solos), 2 QB pressures and 2 interceptions . . . Caused 3 fumbles and deflected 5 passes.
4	Jackie **HARRIS** *TE*	6-3, 231	**Northeast Louisiana**	Holds the school's all-time record with 147 catches . . . Led the team and ranked second in the conference with 54 receptions for 661 yards (12.2 avg.) and 7 TDs.
5	Charles **WILSON** *WR*	5-10, 178	**Memphis State**	Bench presses over 300 pounds and has 4.41 speed in the 40 . . . Did not play in 1989 due to academic ineligibility . . . Started every game in 1988, setting a school season record with 30 kickoff returns for 735 yards (24.5 avg.).
6	Bryce **PAUP** *ILB*	6-4, 238	**Northern Iowa**	Ferocious tackler with great strength and outstanding instincts . . . Played defensive end and outside linebacker before settling in at inside linebacker . . . Recorded a career high 115 tackles (84 solos) and 1 sack . . . Blocked 2 kicks, deflected 3 passes and picked off 2 others.
7	Lester **ARCHAMBEAU** *DT*	6-5, 260	**Stanford**	Moved right into a starting spot his first game in '86 as a redshirt freshman, and never slowed down . . . 269 career tackles and 17 sacks.
8	Roger **BROWN** *CB*	5-11, 192	**Virginia Tech**	Outstanding defender with a fine blend of strength and speed . . . Recovered 1 fumble and deflected 4 passes . . . Had 3 interceptions for 55 yards in returns.
9	Kirk **BAUMGARTNER** *QB*	6-3, 203	**Wisconsin-Stevens Point**	Holder of 18 total offense and 23 passing records at the NCAA Division III level . . . Ranks second in college football history with 13,028 yards passing for 110 touchdowns . . . Completed 247 of 455 passes for 3,692 yards with 39 TDs and only 9 interceptions in 1989.
10	Jerome **MARTIN** *S*	6-0, 210	**Western Kentucky**	Led the Hilltoppers in tackles (80), unassisted tackles (57), fumble recoveries (3) and pass interceptions (4) . . . Also credited with 3.5 tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks . . . Broke up 6 passes and caused 1 fumble.
11	Harry **JACKSON** *FB-TB*	5-10, 213	**St. Cloud State**	Became first rusher in North Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference history to gain over 3,000 yards on the ground during his career . . . Holds conference career rushing record with 4,889 yards on 915 carries.
12	Kirk **MAGGIO** *P*	6-0, 158	**UCLA**	Ranked second nationally with his average of 45.24 yards per kick . . . For his career, averaged 41.48 yards on 67 kicks.

PACKERS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	PACKERS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	342	307
Rushing	114	116
Passing	207	179
Penalty	21	12
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	93/204	85/191
4th Down: Made/Atts.	8/12	5/6
TOTAL NET YARDS	5780	5347
Avg. Per Game	361.3	334.2
Total Plays	1045	969
Avg. Per Play	5.5	5.5
NET YARDS RUSHING	1732	2008
Avg. Per Game	108.3	125.5
Total Rushes	397	460
NET YARDS PASSING	4048	3339
Avg. Per Game	253.0	208.7
Tackled/Yards Lost	48/277	34/214
Gross Yards	4325	3553
Attempts/Completions	600/354	475/302
Pct. of Completions	59.0	63.6
Had Intercepted	20	25
PUNTS/AVERAGE	66/40.6	65/40.7
NET PUNTING AVG.	31.0	35.9
PENALTIES/YARDS	81/666	104/846
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	35/13	28/15
TOUCHDOWNS	42	41
Rushing	13	15
Passing	27	22
Returns	2	4

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
PACKERS	71	74	89	125	3	362
OPP. TOTAL	77	157	70	52	0	356

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Jacke	1-1	9-9	4-6	7-9	1-3	22-28

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Fullwood	204	821	4.0	38	5
Majkowski	75	358	4.8	20	5
Woodside	46	273	5.9	t68	1

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Sharpe	90	1423	15.8	t79	12
Woodside	59	527	8.9	33	0
Kemp	48	611	12.7	39	2
Fontenot	40	372	9.3	t38	3
Query	23	350	15.2	45	2

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
D. Brown	6	12	2.0	12	0
Murphy	3	31	10.3	20	0
Stills	3	20	6.7	12	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Bracken	66	2682	40.6	11	17	63	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Query	30	7	247	8.2	15	0
Sutton	5	1	42	8.4	17	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Workman	33	547	16.6	46	0
Bland	13	256	19.7	37	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Majkowski	599	353	4318	58.9	7.21	27	4.5	20	3.3	t79	47/268	82.3
Dilweg	1	1	7	100.0	7.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	0/0	95.8

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

OPTIMISTIC BUCS WELCOME NEW DECADE

BY JERRY GREENE

The 1989 Tampa Bay Buccaneers lost their final game of the season — and the decade — to rejuvenated Pittsburgh 31-22 before a caustic home "crowd" of 29,690. Afterwards, most of the Bucs quickly showered and dressed, eager to escape the season — and, yes, the decade, too.

Mark Carrier was an exception, just as he had been an exception to the Bucs' gloom all year. He talked to reporters after breaking the team's major single-season receiving records (86 catches for 1,422 yards), saying he was "pleased" but not "satisfied" with his year.

And another delay in departing was the time needed to write a check for $150 to his church.

"By my standards I dropped 3 passes today," said Carrier, who caught 6 for 101 yards and a pair of TDs.

Carrier donates $50 to his church for every catchable pass he drops. He decides what is catchable — and he is his harshest critic.

The Bucs should be paying megabucks to Carrier for every pass he does catch. He went to the Pro Bowl, albeit as an alternate, and clearly was the team's most valuable player in yet another 5-11, last-place season.

"I don't want to go through any more of these five-win seasons," Carrier said. "No matter what you do individually, losing takes all the fun out of it."

The Bucs have posted two consecutive five-win seasons and seven consecutive losing years. By record, they were the worst team of the 80s at 45-106-1 (.299 percentage).

To turn their fortune around in the 90s, the Bucs need more players like Carrier, both in skill and attitude.

"He's a joy to coach," said Richard Williamson, receivers' coach in '89 who has been elevated to assistant head coach this year. "Mark stayed here in the off-season, worked on the weights, worked at martial arts, worked with our quarterbacks.

"Doing what Mark did just doesn't happen — you make it happen, like he did."

Unfortunately, Carrier couldn't make it happen for the entire team by himself — and he did not get enough help to keep the Bucs from falling back into the NFC Central cellar.

So what happened last year? A lot of things, including some factors that fall under the heading of "Buc luck."

The Bucs could not control their schedule, which turned out to be the third toughest in the league behind those of two other losing teams, Dallas and Chicago. And the Bucs could not cope with midseason injuries that struck all areas of the defense and, on offense, put both starting guards on the infirmary table in Week Seven of the season.

Schedule and injuries were out of their hands, along with the freakish way they lost some games, but other factors were not.

The Bucs knew they had to improve their rushing game and failed to do so. The Bucs were 5-1 in games where they rushed for 100 or more yards — and 0-10 in games where they did not hit 100.

Overall, the Bucs did not improve their personnel in '89, although some of their personnel improved their performances. They lost the only pass-rushing lineman they had in Ron Holmes, who asked for a trade to Denver and got it. They made little significant gains during the Plan B period and, worst of all, their draft was a one-year bust.

Their first pick was linebacker Broderick Thomas, who was the draft's second biggest disappointment behind Green Bay's Tony Mandarich. After missing 43 days of training camp while negotiating a contract, Thomas played sparingly all season, totaling 27 tackles and 2 sacks.

Second-round pick Danny Peebles, a speedster wide receiver, was only marginally better. Hampered by injuries, he caught 11 passes (eighth best on the team) for 180 yards and no TDs.

Punter Chris Mohr, a sixth-round pick, started well but tailed off to finish 12th in the conference with a 39.4 average. He made the NFC's All-Rookie team but only because he had no competition.

So much for the draft.

Thanks primarily to Carrier and quarterback Vinny Testaverde, the Bucs displayed some improvement on offense; but thanks to the team's chronic inability to run, the improvement was slight.

Tampa Bay scored 320 points in '89, averaging exactly 20 points per game, a jump from 16.3 the season before and the club's highest total since scoring 335 in 1984.

Carrier, in his third season, was the Bucs' primary weapon. He and Testaverde demonstrated they can be one of the best passing combinations in the league.

Testaverde did not blossom into a star but did show definite gains over the previous season. He raised his TD pass total from 13 to 20, while cutting his interceptions from 35 to 22. His league quarterback rating rose from 48.8 to 68.9.

"Vinny made progress but still has a way to go," Coach Ray Perkins said. "He needs to be more consistent. This year should be the year we can expect him to go out and make the difference."

That was the problem on offense. If

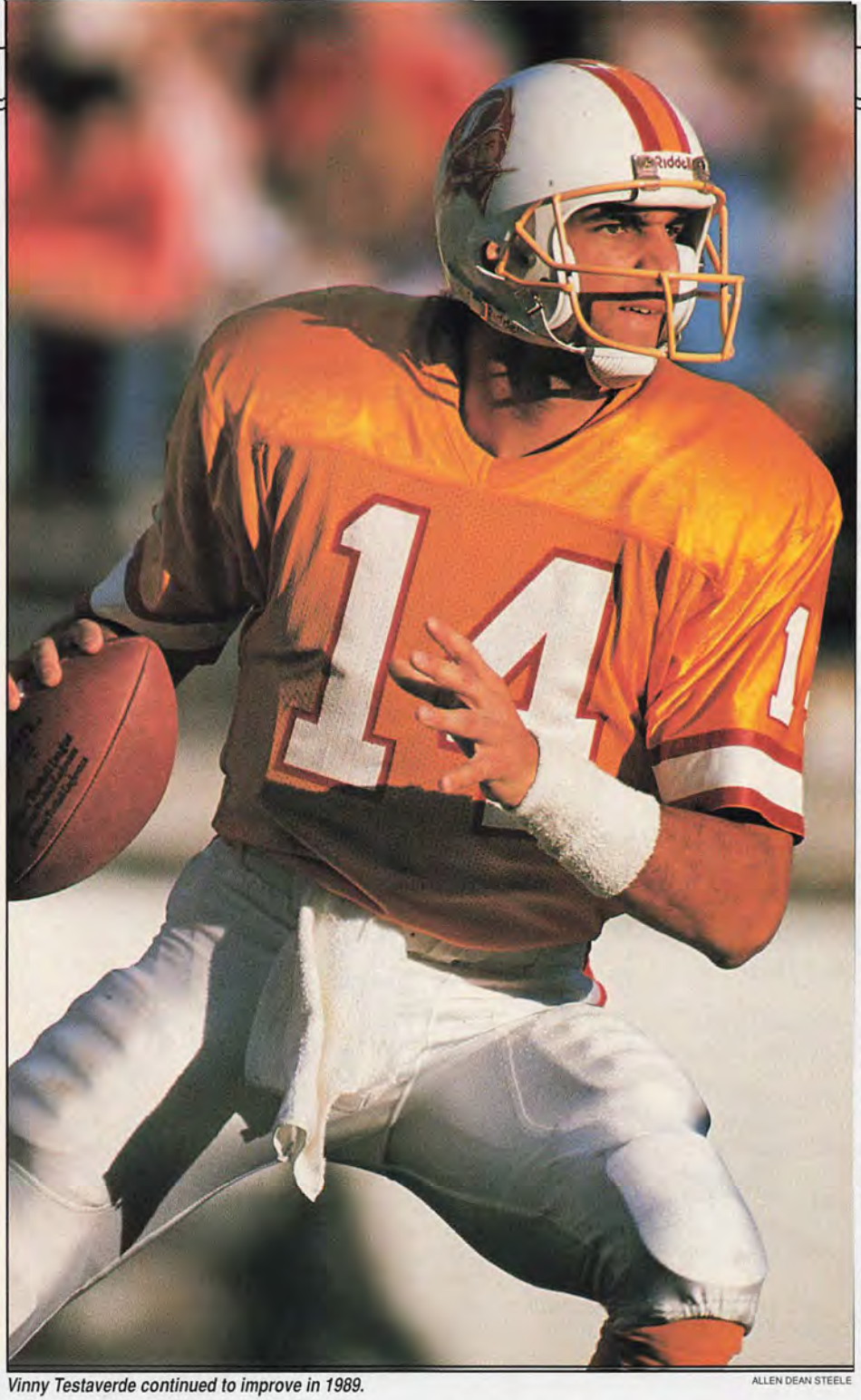
Carrier and Testaverde didn't get the job done, it seldom got done.

Carrier's rise was partially nullified by the descent of Bruce Hill, his counterpart. After 58 catches for 1,049 yards and 9 TDs in '88, Hill dropped to 50 for 673 yards and 5 TDs in '89. "Dropped" is the operative word, too, as he simply let too many balls go through his grip.

Tight end Ron Hall (30 catches, 331 yards, 2 TDs) had an off-season because of injuries. The Bucs still think highly of him, but have a major need for another tight end.

The club's No. 1 offensive need still is a breakaway running back. He'll have to come from the draft because he wasn't on the '89 roster.

Lars Tate led the Bucs with 589 yards rushing on 167 carries (3.5 average), scoring 8 of the team's 10 rushing TDs. He has good size and good speed but is not quite a game breaker and doesn't contribute to the passing attack at all.



Vinny Testaverde continued to improve in 1989.

ALLEN DEAN STEELE

Fullback Bobby Howard had a somewhat mysterious slump in his second season. He needs to bounce back, especially considering that the Bucs did not protect veteran James Wilder during the Plan B period and lost him.

Changes probably are coming in the offensive line, although certainly not at left tackle (Paul Gruber) and center (Randy Grimes). Grimes comes close to making the Pro Bowl every year, while Gruber should become a Pro Bowl regular once the Bucs start winning. Playing against the best, Gruber was assessed for only one holding call all season.

The starting guards last year were John Bruhin and Mike Simmonds. Both missed half the season after being hurt in Week Seven, a crippling blow to the Bucs' attack.

The Bucs are eager to have Bruhin back but were so disappointed in Simmonds they did not protect him when Plan B went into effect. Converted defensive lineman Tom McHale replaced Simmonds last year and probably will do so again in '90. Another ex-defensive lineman, Harry Swayne, may replace incumbent right tackle Rob Taylor, too.

Look for Testaverde to have two new backups this season. The Bucs did not protect Joe Ferguson and do not plan on bringing him back while Kerwin Bell has never been more than an emergency addition to the roster.

Along with Williamson's promotion, Mike Shula, Don's youngest son, was elevated from offensive assistant to quarterbacks' coach. Perkins will continue to run the offense but seems willing to accept a little more help.

On the other side, defensive coordinator Doug Graber resigned to take the top job at Rutgers. He has been replaced by Fred Bruney, who will bring some needed experience to the Bucs' staff.

Defensive changes may be radical this year. The Bucs were something of a mystery in '89, never looking awful statistically but finding a way to give up 27 TD passes and 419 points, both figures ranking 27th in the league. A weak pass rush (33 sacks, up from 20 in '88) and lack of secondary speed were the primary problems.

Perkins says he wants a somewhat simpler, more aggressive defense. He also wants a way to "put our 11 best men on the field at the same time." That's an interesting challenge because 3 of the best 11 are outside linebackers — Thomas, Winston Moss and Kevin Murphy.

The Bucs could stay with their basic 3-4 lineup and move Moss inside to replace veteran Eugene Marve. They also could switch to a 4-3 —

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
56	**Anno**, Sam	LB	6-2	235	4	USC
FA	**Bailey**, Eric	TE	6-5	245	2	Kansas State
75	**Bax**, Carl	OL	6-4	290	2	Missouri
11	**Bell**, Kerwin	QB	6-3	205	3	Florida
55	**Bob**, Adam	LB	6-3	255	2	Texas A&M
69	**Bruhin**, John	OG	6-3	285	3	Tennessee
78	**Cannon**, John	DE	6-5	265	9	William & Mary
FA	**Carlson**, Jeff	QB	6-3	215	1	Weber State
88	**Carrier**, Mark	WR	6-0	185	4	Nicholls State
FA	**Cheattom**, Carlo	DB	5-11	190	1	Auburn
53	**Coleman**, Sidney	LB	6-2	250	3	Southern Mississippi
23	**Cooper**, Evan	DB	5-11	195	7	Michigan
71	**Cooper**, Mark	OT	6-5	280	8	Miami (FL)
79	**Davis**, Reuben	DE	6-4	285	3	North Carolina
76	**Dill**, Scott	OT	6-5	285	3	Memphis State
87	**Drewery**, Willie	WR	5-7	170	6	West Virginia
FA	**Duncan**, Herb	WR	6-0	185	1	Northern Arizona
42	**Everett**, Eric	DB	5-10	170	3	Texas Tech
12	**Ferguson**, Joe	QB	6-1	200	18	Arkansas
36	**Futrell**, Bobby	DB	5-11	190	5	Elizabeth City State
94	**Goff**, Robert	DE	6-3	270	3	Auburn
65	**Graham**, Dan	C	6-2	270	2	Northern Illinois
FA	**Greene**, A.J.	DB	5-9	175	1	Wake Forest
60	**Grimes**, Randy	C	6-4	275	8	Baylor
74	**Gruber**, Paul	OT	6-5	290	3	Wisconsin
45	**Haddix**, Wayne	RB	6-1	205	3	Liberty
82	**Hall**, Ron	TE	6-4	245	4	Hawaii
39	**Hamilton**, Harry	DB	6-0	195	7	Penn State
20	**Harris**, Odie	DB	6-0	190	3	Sam Houston State
FA	**Harvey**, John	RB	5-11	185	1	UTEP
FA	**Hegdale**, Steve	T	6-5	290	1	Tulsa
84	**Hill**, Bruce	WR	6-0	180	4	Arizona State
43	**Howard**, William	FB	6-0	240	3	Tennessee

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
1	**Igwebuike**, Donald	PK	5-9	190	6	Clemson
95	**Jarvis**, Curt	NT	6-2	270	3	Alabama
22	**Jones**, Rod	DB	6-0	185	5	Southern Methodist
38	**Lawson**, Jamie	FB	5-10	240	2	Nicholls State
97	**Lee**, Shawn	NT	6-2	285	3	North Alabama
99	**Marve**, Eugene	LB	6-2	240	9	Saginaw Valley State
73	**McHale**, Tom	OG	6-4	280	4	Cornell
41	**Mitchell**, Alvin	FB	6-0	235	2	Auburn
5	**Mohr**, Chris	P	6-3	220	2	Alabama
58	**Moss**, Winston	LB	6-3	235	4	Miami (FL)
59	**Murphy**, Kevin	LB	6-2	235	5	Oklahoma
57	**Najarian**, Pete	LB	6-2	235	3	Minnesota
FA	**Nassaro**, Chuck	C	6-2	265	1	North Carolina State
96	**Newton**, Tim	NT	6-0	275	6	Florida
86	**Parks**, Jeff	TE	6-4	245	4	Auburn
83	**Peebles**, Danny	WR	5-11	180	2	North Carolina State
80	**Pillow**, Frank	WR	5-10	170	3	Tennessee State
54	**Randle**, Ervin	LB	6-1	250	6	Baylor
29	**Reynolds**, Ricky	DB	5-11	190	4	Washington State
31	**Rice**, Rodney	DB	5-8	180	2	Brigham Young
30	**Robinson**, Mark	DB	5-11	200	7	Penn State
FA	**Roland**, Benji	NT	6-4	270	1	Auburn
FA	**Seals**, Ray	NT	6-3	270	1	None
FA	**Smith**, David	QB	6-0	185	R	Alabama
24	**Stamps**, Sylvester	RB	5-7	180	7	Jackson State
70	**Swayne**, Harry	OT	6-5	270	4	Rutgers
34	**Tate**, Lars	RB	6-2	215	3	Georgia
72	**Taylor**, Rob	OT	6-6	290	5	Northwestern
14	**Testaverde**, Vinny	QB	6-5	215	4	Miami (FL)
51	**Thomas**, Broderick	LB	6-4	245	2	Nebraska
85	**Walker**, Jackie	TE	6-5	255	5	Jackson State
23	**Williams**, Keith	RB	5-10	175	2	Southwest Missouri

BUCCANEERS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Keith **McCANTS** *OLB*	6-5, 254	**Alabama**	Has the strength and size of a down lineman and the quickness of a defensive back . . . Unanimous All-American and All-Southeastern Conference . . . Led the team with 119 tackles (84 solos), 4 sacks and 9 stops for 51 yards in losses . . . Credited with 9 quarterback pressures and caused 1 fumble . . . Deflected 4 passes and picked off another.
2	Reggie **COBB** *TB*	6-0, 217	**Tennessee**	Recently timed at 4.57 in the 40 . . . Played in five games, averaging 123.2 yards per game on the ground in 1989 . . . Named Southeastern Conference Offensive Player-of-the-Week after rushing for 225 yards on 22 carries in a 21-14 defeat of Auburn . . . Left school prior to the Alabama contest, missing the final six games . . . As a freshman, tied SEC season records with 20 TDs and 120 points . . . Led the team with 1,197 yards and 17 TDs on 237 carries . . . Caught 13 passes for 198 yards (15.2 avg.) and 3 TDs . . . Returned 16 kickoffs for 326 yards and set a school season record of 237 carries in 1987.
4	Jesse **ANDERSON** *TE-FB*	6-2, 240	**Mississippi State**	Began his collegiate career as a linebacker, shifting to offense prior to his sophomore year . . . Has 4.58 speed in the 40 . . . In 1989 shifted back to tight end and led the team with 21 receptions for 230 yards (11.0 avg.).
4	Tony **MAYBERRY** *C*	6-4, 272	**Wake Forest**	One of the premier centers in the ACC the past three years . . . Earned second team All-Conference honors in 1989 . . . Started 33 consecutive games . . . Graded out to 84% efficiency in every game.
5	Ian **BECKLES** *OG*	6-1, 296	**Indiana**	Punishing drive blocker with outstanding strength and fine quickness . . . Excellent trap blocker who consistently stays with his blocks . . . Recently timed at 5.2 in the 40 . . . Graded 89% for blocking consistency in 1989.
6	Derrick **DOUGLAS** *RB*	5-10, 203	**Louisiana Tech**	Outstanding kick returner holding every Tech individual record in that category . . . Posted 2,476 rushing yards in his career, 1,732 as a senior.
7	Donnie **GARDNER** *DE*	6-3, 260	**Kentucky**	Aggressive tackler . . . Has the power to take on the more physical blockers . . . Plays the run well and has developed into an effective pass rusher . . . Recorded 49 tackles (35 solos) with 4 sacks and 11 stops for 26 yards in losses.
9	Terry **COOK** *DE*	6-4, 265	**Fresno State**	Made 51 total tackles including 4.5 sacks and 4 tackles for loss . . . Caused 2 fumbles and made 1 fumble recovery . . . Also credited with 2 pass deflections and 14 quarterback hurries.
10	Mike **BUSCH** *TE*	6-4, 249	**Iowa State**	Excellent clutch receiver . . . Became the first athlete in school history to earn All-American honors in both football and baseball during the same year . . . Ranks ninth on the school's all-time list with 78 catches and tenth with 1,061 receiving yards . . . Caught 23 passes for 375 yards (16.3 avg.) and 2 TDs in 1989.
11	Terry **ANTHONY** *WR*	6-0, 193	**Florida State**	Possession-type receiver with the quickness and moves to excel in deep routes . . . Known for his ability to make the tough catch over the middle . . . In 1989 caught 33 passes for 569 yards (17.2 avg.) and 8 TDs . . . In 1988 led the team with 32 receptions for 550 yards.
12	Todd **HAMMEL** *QB*	6-1, 203	**Stephen F. Austin**	Southland Conference Offensive Player-of-the-Year as a senior . . . Attempted 1,060 passes in his career with 544 completions for 8,631 yards and 65 TDs . . . Had a banner senior campaign completing 316 of 577 passes for 5,364 yards and 48 TDs.

playing Thomas (6'4", 250) as an end.

Linebackers are the Bucs' strength, including inside star Ervin Randle. He led the team in tackles with 114 and could be a Pro Bowler if he was with a high-profile, successful team.

Murphy and Moss both had improved seasons, one reason Thomas didn't get to play. They led the team in sacks, Murphy with 6 and Moss with 5.5.

Lars Tate is a major figure in Tampa Bay attack.

ALLEN DEAN STEELE

Nothing is wrong with the starting safeties either as long as they stay healthy. Mark Robinson and Harry Hamilton had six interceptions each. They were the Bucs' big-play people most of the time, hitting hard and playing excellent run support.

Cornerback Ricky Reynolds had five interceptions and played well. Rod Jones improved to regain his starting role at left corner. Jones is the Bucs' fastest defensive back but he had no interceptions and still may be better suited as a nickel or dime back.

Depth and speed are needed in the secondary. The Bucs' first Plan B acquisition was Eric Everett, a good coverage cornerback from Philadelphia. He should give Jones a fight.

The biggest need on defense is in the line. The Bucs have found one winner in big Rueben Davis, who can be devastating against the run from his left end position. If he could turn his speed into sacks (3 last year), he'd be All-Pro material. Perhaps playing tackle in a four-man front is the answer.

Injuries to Tampa Bay's young linemen made it difficult to determine if anyone other than Davis deserves to stay in the starting lineup. Like so many teams, the Bucs need someone who can reach the passer instead of just applying pressure.

At right end, Robert "Pig" Goff, entering his third season like Davis, may or may not be the answer. He led the linemen with four sacks as Holmes' replacement.

Nose tackle Curt Jarvis is a fighter who ended the season on Injured Reserve. His backup, Shawn Lee, primarily is used as an inside rusher on four-man nickel fronts.

Depth is a desperate need as the Bucs discovered last year when injuries hobbled Goff and Jarvis at the same time.

Tampa Bay signed free agent Tim Newton, who had been released by Minnesota. An experienced nose tackle, he should help, especially if Tampa Bay experiments with a four-man front.

"Inconsistent" is the only term that fits Tampa Bay's special teams, which is an improvement over "terrible" but leaves much to be desired.

No player on the team frustrates Perkins more than kicker Donald Igwebuike, who set a team record in '89 with 99 points. Igwebuike is a fine field-goal kicker, hitting on 22 of 28, including a perfect mark from 40 yards or less.

That's the good news. The bad news is that Igwebuike's kickoffs kept getting shorter as the season wore on. In the first eight weeks he reached the end zone with 15 of 35 — but dropped off to 3 of 33 in the second half of the season.

"He may be the best field goal kicker in the league," Perkins said. "He may also be the worst kickoff man."

Simple physical conditioning may be the answer for Igwebuike. He tends to put on weight during the season, so it's likely he'll be asked to do a few more wind sprints this year.

Mohr is a fine athlete and shows the potential to be a fine punter, but is guilty of inconsistent performances.

Kickoff returns were poor, too, (17.0-yard average), indicating a replacement for Donnie Elder may be needed. Plan B aquisition Willie Drewrey proved to be a solid punt returner (11.0) and backup receiver.

Another Plan B product, Sam Anno, clearly was the special teams star for Tampa Bay and was named the league's S-T Player-of-the-Year by the NFL Alumni. Nicknamed "Slammer," he set a club single-season record with 28 tackles and did an excellent job as deep snapper for all kicks.

The Bucs have winners in players like Carrier and Anno. What they don't have yet is a winning attitude, supported by a winning belief. It's a problem as old as deciding which came first, the chicken or the egg.❑

BUCCANEERS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	BUCCANEERS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	288	317
Rushing	84	115
Passing	174	170
Penalty	30	32
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	95/230	87/208
4th Down: Made/Atts.	7/13	10/17
TOTAL NET YARDS	4842	5460
Avg. Per Game	302.6	341.3
Total Plays	1025	1027
Avg. Per Play	4.7	5.3
NET YARDS RUSHING	1507	2023
Avg. Per Game	94.2	126.4
Total Rushes	412	479
NET YARDS PASSING	3335	3437
Avg. Per Game	208.4	214.8
Tackled/Yards Lost	43/331	33/222
Gross Yards	3666	3659
Attempts/Completions	570/302	515/301
Pct. of Completions	53.0	58.4
Had Intercepted	28	21
PUNTS/AVERAGE	86/38.5	69/40.3
NET PUNTING AVG.	32.1	31.4
PENALTIES/YARDS	104/881	109/869
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	21/9	30/18
TOUCHDOWNS	36	51
Rushing	10	18
Passing	23	29
Returns	3	4

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
BUCCANEERS	58	92	42	128	0	320
OPP. TOTAL	79	144	86	110	0	419

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Igwebuike	0-0	9-9	6-6	5-10	2-3	22-28

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Tate	167	589	3.5	48	8
Howard	108	357	3.3	15	1
Wilder	70	244	3.5	14	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Carrier	86	1422	16.5	t78	9
Hill	50	673	13.5	53	5
Wilder	36	335	9.3	27	3
Hall	30	331	11.0	32	2
Howard	30	188	6.3	18	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Hamilton	6	70	11.7	30	0
Robinson	6	44	7.3	16	0
Reynolds	5	87	17.4	t68	1

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Mohr	84	3311	39.4	3	10	58	2

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Drewrey	20	2	220	11.0	55	0
Futrell	12	2	76	6.3	15	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Elder	40	685	17.1	30	0
Stamps	9	145	16.1	36	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Testaverde	480	258	3133	53.8	6.53	20	4.2	22	4.6	t78	38/294	68.9
Ferguson	90	44	533	48.9	5.92	3	3.3	6	6.7	t69	5/37	50.8

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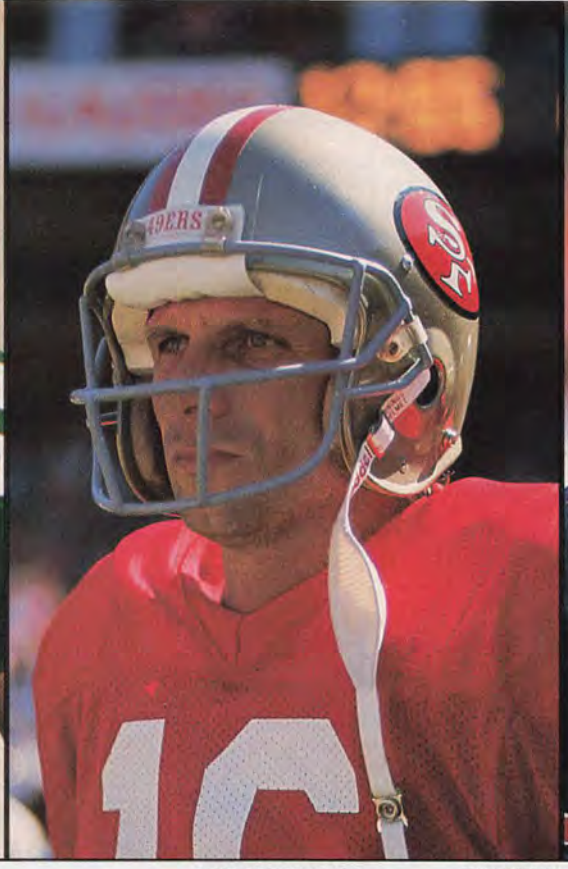

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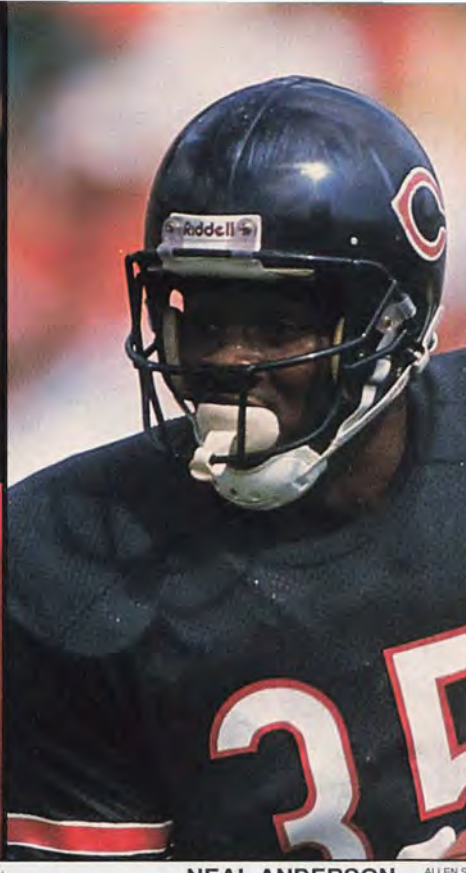

NEAL ANDERSON

ALLEN S AL

RATING THE PROS

By John Delcos

QUARTERBACKS

1. Joe Montana, San Francisco
2. John Elway, Denver
3. Dan Marino, Miami
4. Boomer Esiason, Cincinnati
5. Jim Everett, LA Rams
6. Phil Simms, NY Giants
7. Bernie Kosar, Cleveland
8. Jim Kelly, Buffalo
9. Warren Moon, Houston

While others have stronger arms, Joe Montana has four Super Bowl rings. He's poise and confidence personified; San Francisco knows it'll win inside two minutes with Montana. That's a greatness transcending his NFL-high 92.0 career pass efficiency rating.

John Elway isn't an uncashed check. Despite three Super Bowl routs, he'll be remembered for The Drive: a 98-yard study in composure which beat Cleveland to send Denver to Super Bowl XXI.

In 1984, Miami's Dan Marino had the greatest season of any quarterback, throwing for 5,084 yards and 48 touchdowns. His production has declined, but blame the regression of receivers Mark Duper and Mark Clayton, the NFL's 27th-ranked running game, and a porous defense which puts him in the position of *having* to throw. Marino wants out and is worth the asking price.

Cincinnati's Boomer Esiason — the NFL's third-ranked career passer who has led the AFC the last two years — still can't believe he was only a second-round draft pick. Ironically, one of Esiason's assets — his fearlessness — hurts him. He won't flinch at a pass rush or duck a linebacker while scrambling for the first down, which has resulted in nagging hand and shoulder injuries.

Take away Montana, and the Los Angeles Rams' Jim Everett is the NFC's premier quarterback, having thrown 60 touchdown passes the past two seasons. He always had the physical package and is developing cool by the game.

One wouldn't know it by reading the New York papers, but Phil Simms *IS* the Giants. Younger arms have the "franchise" label, but Simms isn't a bad choice in the fourth quarter.

Bernie Kosar has led Cleveland to the AFC championship game in three of the last four years. He's not a stylist, only a winner.

Jim Kelly took Buffalo to the playoffs the last two years and, but for Ronnie Harmon's dropped pass in the end zone at Cleveland, the Bills would've reached the AFC championship game last season.

Houston's Warren Moon shed the undisciplined tag and was the NFL's fourth-ranked passer last year with an 88.9 rating.

Randall Cunningham has the complete physical package, but Philadelphia made two early playoff exits. Despite his skills, there are times when he still plays out of control.

How can one of the game's greatest talents play for three teams? It's possible if Indianapolis yields to Eric Dickerson's de-

RUNNING BACKS

1. Eric Dickerson, Indianapolis
2. Roger Craig, San Francisco
3. Neal Anderson, Chicago
4. Barry Sanders, Detroit
5. James Brooks, Cincinnati
6. Christian Okoye, Kansas City
7. Thurman Thomas, Buffalo
8. Dalton Hilliard, New Orleans
9. Herschel Walker, Minnesota
10. Bo Jackson, LA Raiders

mands to be traded. There's no denying his ability, only his marketability — he'll be 30 in September and has averaged 350 carries a year, he's asking for $2.5 million per and has a reputation of dogging it if he doesn't get his way, he's an All-Pro headache, criticizing teammates last year for not playing hard and he's threatening to retire if he isn't traded.

There has always been someone to take the headlines from Roger Craig who, in 1985, became the only player to get 1,000 rushing and receiving yards. At Nebraska it was Mike Rozier; at San Francisco it's Joe Montana and Jerry Rice. But make no mistake, without Craig the 49ers don't win consecutive Super Bowls.

There will always be Walter Payton memories, but consecutive 1,000-yard seasons — and doing it injured — has taken Neal Anderson out of the shadows in Chicago. If the Bears utilize him in the passing game, he can be a threat for 1,000 receiving yards.

Detroit's Barry Sanders rushed for 1,470 yards and 14 touchdowns in his rookie season. If he stays healthy, he'll make annual visits to Honolulu for the Pro Bowl.

James Brooks is Cincinnati's Craig. He doesn't have Craig's power, but he does have the speed to run deep routes.

Kansas City's Christian Okoye is the prototypical fullback — big, strong, powerful and requiring at least two tacklers to bring him down. Last year, he led the NFL with 1,480 yards.

Buffalo became a contender when Thurman Thomas was drafted, which took pressure off of quarterback Jim Kelly. Thomas rushed for 1,244 yards last season and showed his receiving skills in the Bills' desperation drives against Cleveland.

New Orleans' Dalton Hilliard is in the Craig-Brooks-Thomas mold. He has the strength to run inside, the quickness to sweep outside and is used as a receiver.

Minnesota might have mortgaged its future for Herschel Walker, who had trouble adjusting to the Vikings' system. It's too early to label the trade a bust. With a full training camp and plays designed for him, Walker can still be an elite back.

There's no doubting Bo Jackson's abilities. But until he plays a full schedule for the Raiders, how can he realistically be considered one of the greatest backs?

RECEIVERS

San Francisco's Jerry Rice is the ultimate — speed, hands, moves and toughness over the middle. He has four straight 1,000-yard seasons and 26 touchdown receptions in the past two years.

Anthony Carter held out of training camp and got off to a slow start but finished with 1,066 yards on 65 receptions. If Minnesota had a wide-open offense, he could put up Rice-like numbers.

The New York Jets' Al Toon went to the Pro Bowl in three of his first four seasons. Last season, he held out of training camp, was injured and missed five games, but still caught 65 passes.

Henry Ellard began his career in Los Angeles' run-oriented offense and it took a 1986 holdout for the Rams to realize his worth. In the past two years, he has netted 157 receptions for 2,796 yards and 18 touchdowns.

For the second straight year, Philadelphia's Mike Quick was injured. He made five straight Pro Bowl appearances before catching 35 passes over the last two years.

All Art Monk does is catch passes. He has seven seasons of at least 50 receptions, including 86 last year for 1,186 yards. These figures have vaulted Monk to a position as Washington's all-time leading receiver.

Monk's teammate, Gary Clark, a former USFL standout, had 79 receptions for 1,229 yards.

The Los Angeles Rams dealt Drew Hill to Houston in 1985,

RECEIVERS

1. Jerry Rice, San Francisco
2. Anthony Carter, Minnesota
3. Al Toon, NY Jets
4. Henry Ellard, LA Rams
5. Mike Quick, Philadelphia
6. Art Monk, Washington
7. Gary Clark, Washington
8. Drew Hill, Houston
9. Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay

about the time Ellard started to emerge. Hill has averaged 1,069 yards a year since.

Green Bay thought it had a game-breaker when it drafted Sterling Sharpe in the first round of the 1988 draft. After 145 receptions, the Packers are convinced.

Like Carter and Toon, Eddie Brown had an off-year in 1989, going from 1,273 yards to 814 on one less reception. Perhaps no other stat best represents why Cincinnati didn't repeat.

TIGHT ENDS

1. Keith Jackson, Philadelphia
2. Steve Jordan, Minnesota
3. Mark Bavaro, NY Giants
4. Mickey Shuler, NY Jets
5. Rodney Holman, Cincinnati
6. Pete Holohan, LA Rams
7. Ferrell Edmunds, Miami
8. Robert Awalt, Phoenix
9. Clarence Kay, Denver
10. Ron Hall, Tampa Bay

Keith Jackson caught 62 passes in college at Oklahoma. Last year alone, he had 63 receptions for Philadelphia after an 81-catch rookie season. He has the size to take on a rushing defensive end and the speed to beat linebackers deep.

Like several of his Pro Bowl Minnesota teammates, Steve Jordan paid for his holdout with an off-year. He caught 35 passes — down from 57 — but is still a defensive priority in short-yardage situations.

Mark Bavaro's production dropped the last three years because of a holdout and injuries. New York hopes he'll reach the form when he was an integral part of the Giants' Super Bowl offense.

Knee and ankle injuries reduced the New York Jets' Mickey Shuler to a bit role last year. When healthy, he's a master at working a zone and, despite a lack of size and speed, he always seems to come up with the reception on third down.

Rodney Holman gets lost among Cincinnati's weapons, but he makes the five-yard reception on third-and-four.

Ten years ago, Pete Holohan was Kellen Winslow's back-up at San Diego. Now, he catches 50 passes a year for the Los Angeles Rams.

Miami's Ferrell Edmunds is in the Jackson class physically, but he still drops too many passes. Edmunds is not a good blocker, but he can turn a five-yard reception into a 50-yard gain.

Phoenix's Robert Awalt is a young Shuler, but with more speed. He benefits from the attention defenses give to wideouts Roy Green and J.T. Smith.

Clarence Kay's 240 pounds makes him one of the best run-blockers at the position. Most of his receptions in Denver's offense come as a safety-valve receiver.

Tampa Bay's Ron Hall has the tools, but his production is limited because of an erratic offense. That should change as quarterback Vinny Testaverde develops.

OFFENSIVE LINE

1. Anthony Munoz, Cincinnati
2. Gary Zimmerman, Minnesota
3. Ray Donaldson, Indianapolis
4. Mike Munchak, Houston
5. Bill Fralic, Atlanta
6. Chris Hinton, Indianapolis
7. Bruce Matthews, Houston
8. Jackie Slater, LA Rams
9. Jay Hilgenberg, Chicago
10. Tunch Ilkin, Pittsburgh

After 10 seasons, two contract holdouts and countless head-slaps, Cincinnati tackle Anthony Munoz is still the best. As evidenced by nine straight Pro Bowl appearances, no offensive lineman dominates a game like him.

Most pro scouts say Minnesota's Gary Zimmerman is a young Munoz. His forte is pass blocking but, unlike most tackles, he has the speed to lead sweeps.

Indianapolis center Ray Donaldson has played 149 straight games and has been a Pro Bowler since 1987.

Houston took guard Mike Munchak with the first overall pick in the 1982 draft. He hasn't disappointed them, going to five Pro Bowls.

Atlanta guard Bill Fralic has made four Pro Bowls since 1985 despite a series of injuries.

Few remember that tackle Chris Hinton came to Indianapolis as part of the deal which sent John Elway to Denver. Hinton made the Pro Bowl as a rookie in 1983, broke his leg in 1984 and has been a Pro Bowler since.

Bruce Matthews was one of three straight first-round picks Houston spent on its offensive line. He started at all five line spots before settling in as a Pro Bowl guard.

After 14 years, tackle Jackie Slater still protects the Los Angeles Rams' quarterbacks. What's most impressive is that, until the last five years, the Rams were primarily a running team and Slater's strength was run-blocking.

Other centers are bigger and stronger, but it's Chicago's Jay Hilgenberg who always seems to be in Hawaii for the Pro Bowl.

Pittsburgh tackle Tunch Ilkin has been beaten for fewer than 10 sacks since 1986.

DEFENSIVE LINE

1. Reggie White, Philadelphia
2. Keith Millard, Minnesota
3. Chris Doleman, Minnesota
4. Bruce Smith, Buffalo
5. Lee Williams, San Diego
6. Michael Carter, San Francisco
7. Steve McMichael, Chicago
8. Greg Townsend, LA Raiders
9. Leslie O'Neal, San Diego
10. Richard Dent, Chicago

Philadelphia's Reggie White is a Sack Monster, with 81 in his last 73 games. Unlike most sack specialists, he's a complete player who lines up against the center in run situations.

Minnesota's Keith Millard has 50.5 sacks in five years despite playing with cracked ribs, a torn calf muscle and a bruised knee.

A bust at linebacker, Minnesota made Chris Doleman a lineman and he responded with 29 sacks in two years, including a league-high 21 last season.

Buffalo became a contender when it drafted Bruce Smith; take away his 13 sacks last season and the Bills are average.

Lee Williams is ignored in San Diego where the Chargers haven't been in the playoffs since 1982. However, 25 sacks in two seasons gets a quarterback's attention.

The years have taken a toll on San Francisco nose tackle Michael Carter. When healthy, nobody is better at controlling the line of scrimmage.

With injuries on the line, nose tackle Steve McMichael picked up the slack for the Bears last year with 7.5 sacks and still stopped the run.

Although Greg Townsend has gotten lost playing next to more celebrated Raiders defensive teammates — Howie Long, Lyle Alzado and Bob Golic — he can usually be found on the quarterback. He has 22 sacks in two seasons.

Leslie O'Neal rehabilitated a blown knee and, with Williams, gives San Diego bookend pass-rushers. He had 12.5 sacks last year, up from four in 1988.

Richard Dent's nine sacks is positive progress from an injured knee. If he can make it back, Chicago can return to the playoffs.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

What Joe Montana is offensively, Lawrence Taylor is defensively. The New York Giants are an average defense without him. He's a devastating blitzer (a NFL-high 104 career sacks) and is also superb against the run and in coverage.

Green Bay's Tim Harris talks trash but has backed it up with 33 sacks in two years. He needs to improve against the run.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

1. Lawrence Taylor, NY Giants
2. Tim Harris, Green Bay
3. Kevin Greene, LA Rams
4. Cornelius Bennett, Buffalo
5. Clay Matthews, Cleveland
6. Pat Swilling, New Orleans
7. Carl Banks, NY Giants
8. Duane Bickett, Indianapolis
9. Charles Haley, San Francisco
10. Andre Tippett, New England

Who is Kevin Greene? That question surrounding the Los Angeles Rams two years ago has been answered 33 sacks later.

With Buffalo making the playoffs the last two years, Cornelius Bennett is fast becoming the key figure in the Eric Dickerson trade. Cleveland offered two No. 1s to the Colts for his rights.

Cleveland's Clay Matthews is playing better after 12 years than his first eight, as evidenced by four straight Pro Bowls.

Who Dat? Who Dat crushing the quarterback? New Orleans' Pat Swilling got to the passer 16.5 times last year.

Carl Banks will forever be in teammate Taylor's shadow. However, he's a Pro Bowler on his own.

Duane Bickett is quietly efficient. If Indianapolis returns to the playoffs, he'll get the recognition he deserves.

San Francisco made Charles Haley a project, converting him from defensive end to take advantage of his quickness.

Under normal circumstances, New England's Andre Tippett would rank right behind Taylor. However, a year on injured reserve raises questions.

INSIDE LINEBACKERS

1. Mike Singletary, Chicago
2. Karl Mecklenburg, Denver
3. Shane Conlan, Buffalo
4. Scott Studwell, Minnesota
5. John Offerdahl, Miami
6. Vaughan Johnson, New Orleans
7. Sam Mills, New Orleans
8. Johnny Rembert, New England
9. Michael Walter, San Francisco
10. Brian Noble, Green Bay

Mike Singletary's job description is to remind ball carriers who they're playing. Mornings after a Chicago Sunday are painful and sore.

There's no more versatile defender than Karl Mecklenburg, who has played every position for Denver except cornerback and safety.

Read. Move. Attack. That's Shane Conlan. Teamed with Cornelius Bennett, Buffalo has one of the NFL's most destructive linebacking corps.

At 35, Minnesota's Scott Studwell still makes tackles and Pro Bowls, but he's not recognized until the stat sheet shows 9 tackles by his name.

Miami's John Offerdahl has been to four Pro Bowls in his first four seasons. Enough said.

From the USFL to stardom in New Orleans. That's the route Vaughan Johnson took.

TIME OUT

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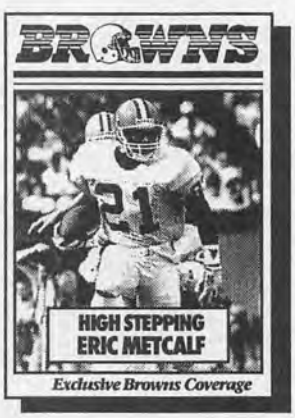

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PAS-10

Sam Mills, New Orleans Saints: see Vaughan Johnson. He took the same route.

Lost on the New England bench behind Steve Nelson and Don Blackmon, John y Rembert had to wait until retirement and injury before his chance.

Dallas cut Michael Walter when he couldn't make it on the outside. San Francisco picked him up and moved him inside, where he made an impact.

Brian Noble is emotional, excitable and a hitter. His range is limited, but he's around the ball.

CORNERBACKS

1. Eric Allen, Philadelphia
2. Albert Lewis, Kansas City
3. Gill Byrd, San Diego
4. Carl Lee, Minnesota
5. Tim McKyer, San Francisco
6. Jerry Gray, LA Rams
7. Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh
8. Steve Brown, Houston
9. Tyrone Braxton, Denver
10. Keith Taylor, Indianapolis

Eric Allen's 13 interceptions in two years isn't all due to Philadelphia's pass-rush. He has good hands and plays in-your-face bump-and-run.

Kansas City's Albert Lewis has eight interceptions in two years — impressive, considering that teams don't throw in his direction. He's a rarity among veterans in that he plays special teams.

Gill Byrd has seven interceptions in each of the last two years for San Diego. He's one of the stickiest corners in coverage.

Carl Lee made the transition from safety with eight interceptions in 1988 for the Vikings.

Last season was a wash for San Francisco's Tim McKyer. He held out, lost his starting job, was suspended, then injured. But, the skills remain.

The Los Angeles Rams' Jerry Gray is a converted safety. He has speed and a linebacker's aggressiveness.

A former world-class hurdler, Pittsburgh's Rod Woodson is still an uncashed check, but he might be the NFL's best athlete.

Steve Brown is one of the reasons Houston calls the Astrodome "The House of Pain."

Tyrone Braxton is the new breed of Denver Bronco defender — tough and mean. His six interceptions helped turn around the defense.

Signed as a free agent by Indianapolis in 1988, Keith Taylor blossomed with seven interceptions last year.

SAFETIES

Dave Duerson has made the Pro Bowl part of his yearly routine since 1985. Duerson excels at run support but is being used more by Chicago as a blitzer.

There are pieces of Ronnie Lott spread on fields from San Francisco to New York. He has gone to eight Pro Bowls, his first five as a cornerback.

Joey Browner is fast, tough, strong and a black belt in karate. He's a Pro Bowl fixture.

A free agent from Rutgers, Deron Cherry has been Kansas City's best player for the past seven years. He has the speed to cover a receiver deep and the strength to handle a tight end one-on-one.

SAFETIES

1. Dave Duerson, Chicago
2. Ronnie Lott, San Francisco
3. Joey Browner, Minnesota
4. Deron Cherry, Kansas City
5. David Fulcher, Cincinnati
6. Erik McMillan, NY Jets
7. Jeff Donaldson, Houston
8. Felix Wright, Cleveland
9. Mark Kelso, Buffalo
10. Steve Atwater, Denver

The critics who said Cincinnati's David Fulcher didn't have the speed or discipline to play safety have been proven wrong by 13 interceptions over two years.

Erik McMillan is one of the few talents on the New York Jets' dismal defense, going to the Pro Bowl in his first two seasons.

Houston's Jeff Donaldson is small for the position, but nobody hits harder.

Talk all you want about Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield, but Felix Wright has been Cleveland's best defensive back over the past three years.

Buffalo's Mark Kelso is a self-made player. At 5'11", 185 lbs., he gets by on guile, as evidenced by 13 interceptions in two years.

As much as anyone, Steve Atwater can be credited for giving Denver's defense its attack mentality.

PUNTERS

1. Jim Arnold, Detroit
2. Rohn Stark, Indianapolis

Detroit's Jim Arnold, who has led the NFC three times, has the strongest leg in the league with a 43-yard career average.

Indianapolis' Rohn Stark has led the NFL three times and has a 44.3-yard career average. The tradeoff is a continually league-low number of punts inside the 20-yard line.

Only once in his eight-year career has Miami's Reggie Roby had a net average under 35 yards.

PLACE-KICKERS

1. Morten Andersen, New Orleans
2. Nick Lowery, Kansas City
3. Pat Leahy, NY Jets

Not only is New Orleans' Morten Andersen accurate (171 of 222 field-goal attempts for 77 percent), he's deadly from long range (55 of 94 for 58 percent) over 40 yards.

Nick Lowery kicks have won 11 games for Kansas City since 1978. He has converted 225 of 291 (77 percent).

The New York Jets' Pat Leahy is the NFL's leading active scorer with 1,261 points and has made 62 of his last 66 attempts (93 percent) inside the 40.❑

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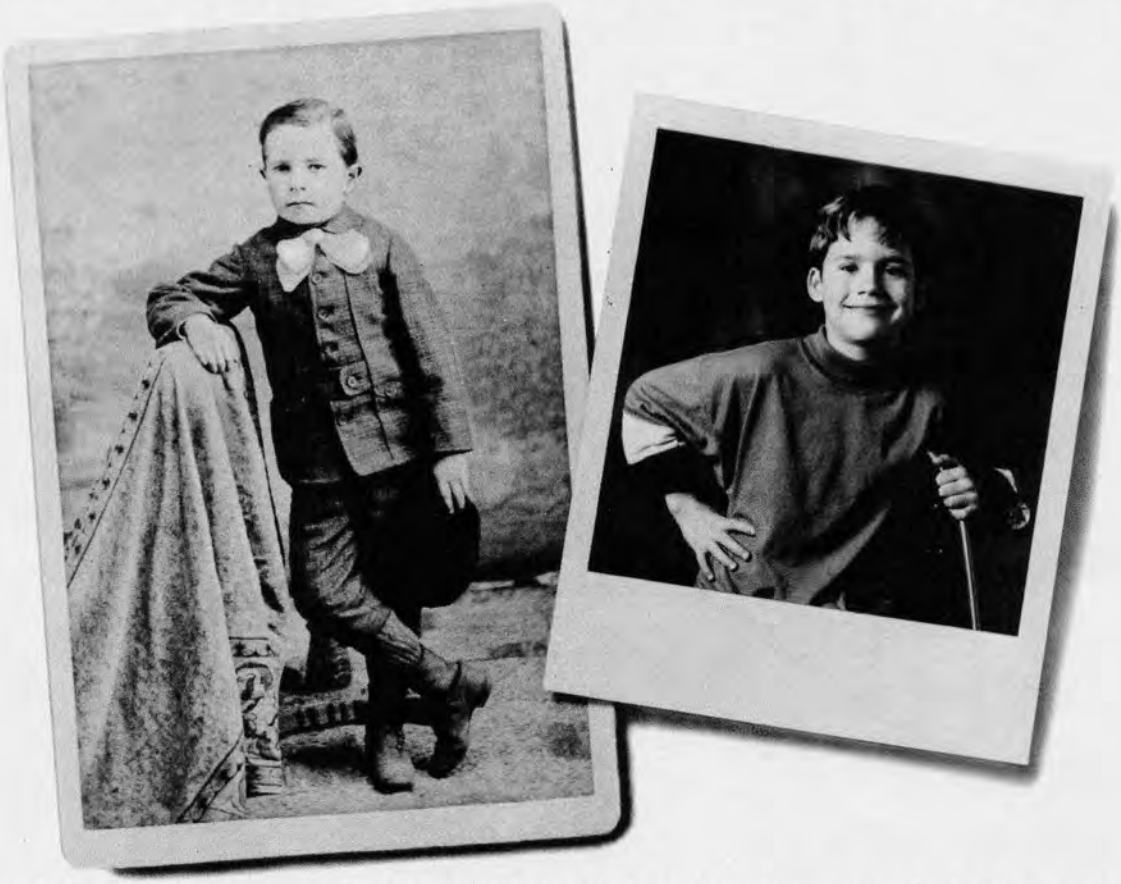
Who's More Likely To Have A Heart Attack?



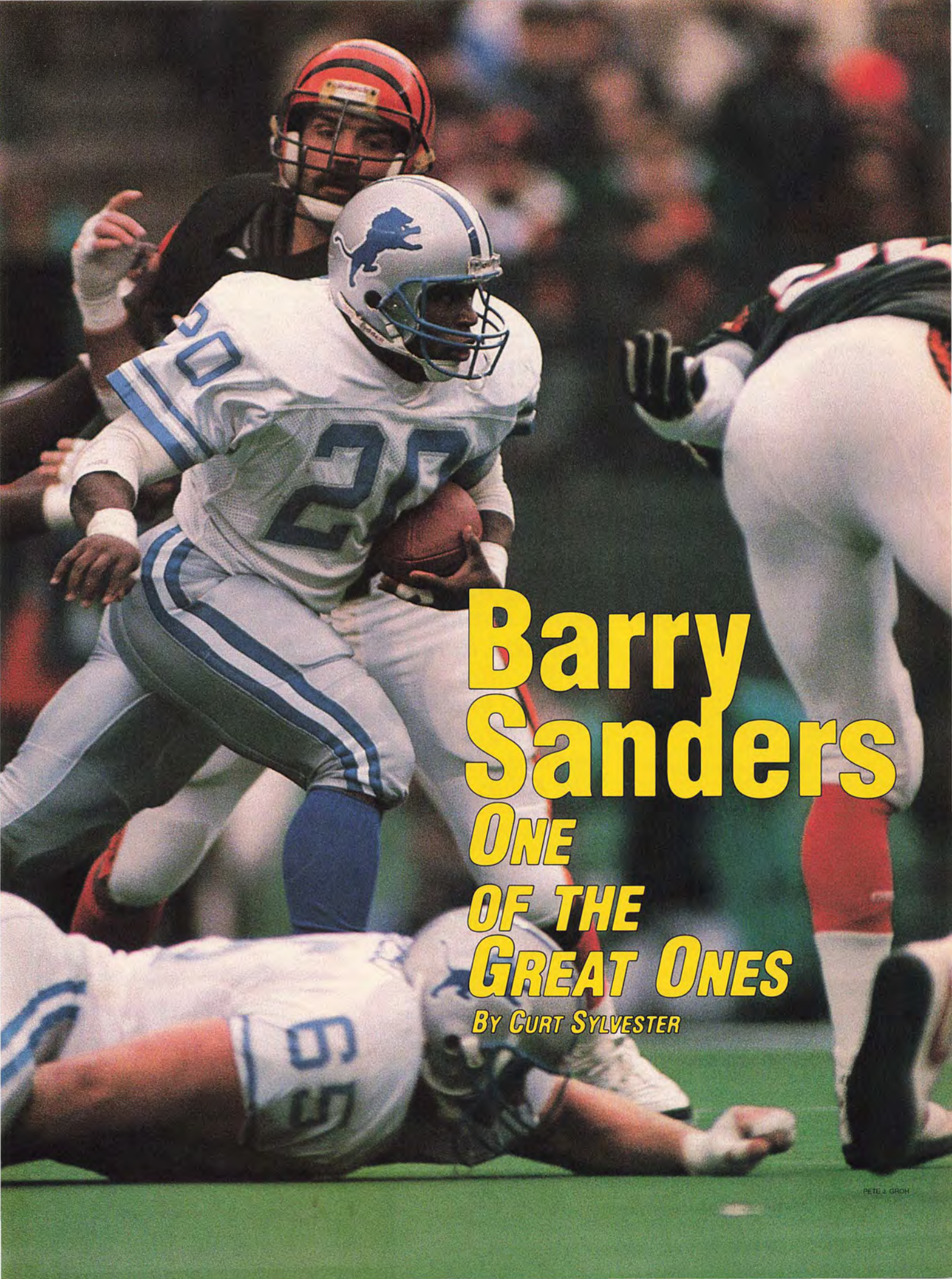
People born today have a much better chance of avoiding heart attack. In fact, since 1977, death rates from heart attack have dropped by 30.9%. Death rates from stroke have gone down a remarkable 37.3%.

Over the years, research and education have helped people understand that quitting smoking, controlling diets and blood pressure can lower the major risk factors for heart attack and stroke. So keep up the good work.

And we'll keep on supporting the scientific breakthroughs and medical innovations that'll help make even more progress against America's number one killer. To learn about reducing your risk, write the American Heart Association, 7320 Greenville Ave., Box 7, Dallas, TX 75231.

Your Life Is In Your Hands.

American Heart Association



Barry Sanders

One of the Great Ones

By Curt Sylvester

PETE J. GROH

Wayne Fontes remembers the exact words he said the first time he laid eyes on Barry Sanders that April afternoon on the practice field in Stillwater, Ok.

Sanders had just run a 40-yard dash for the Detroit Lions head coach and a handful of NFL scouts.

Fontes looked at his stopwatch, which had stopped on 4.36 seconds. He looked at Sanders. He looked at the scouts, took a puff on his cigar, grinned broadly and announced: "He's going to Detroit; I'll see ya later."

Fontes remembers perfectly his reaction the first time Sanders carried the football for the Lions in the 1989 season opener against Phoenix. It was an 18-yard run, a simple draw play that Sanders nearly broke for a touchdown.

Fontes looked at running back coach Dave Levy next to him on the sidelines and uttered the one thought that popped into his mind: "Wow."

And the Lions head coach has a pretty good idea what he and the rest of the NFL will think about Sanders when he's ready to retire from football, hopefully not for another 8 or 10 years: "One of the great ones to ever put on the uniform."

Judging from Sanders' first season in the NFL — 1470 yards rushing, 14 touchdowns, Offensive-Rookie-of-the-Year honors and a start in the Pro Bowl — there is no reason to suspect Fontes might have erred in any of his conclusions.

Only three players in NFL history have enjoyed better first year success: Eric Dickerson with 1808 yards for the Los Angeles Rams in 1983; George Rogers with 1674 at New Orleans in 1981; and Ottis Anderson with 1605 yards for St. Louis in 1979.

And, while no one has suggested after one brilliant season that Sanders is in line to push aside all-time NFL greats Jim Brown and Walter Payton, there are plenty who believe Sanders — running out of the Lions stretch offense — might be able to do some heavy duty damage to NFL defenses for years to come.

The stretch offense, originally designed to spread the field with a four-receiver passing game, creates wide open spaces. And if you want to know what Sanders does in space, just ask the Bears' Mike Singletary or Dave Duerson, or Cleveland's Bubba Baker.

Sanders made highlight film moves on all three of them, leaving them grasping at thin air a split second after they seemingly had him lined up in the crosshairs, ready to bring down.

There's something about a guy 5'8", 203 lbs, who can stop on a dime and leave you nine cents change in the blink of an eye. Something that makes him special.

Levy compares him to former Southern Cal running back Mike Garrett in running style.

"They've got the low center of gravity, they've got their feet apart and they take short steps," Levy said. "They can approach you fairly fast and then skate."

Skate? Check with Jerry Glanville, whose Houston Oilers held Sanders to 91 yards in 19 carries just about the time he was heating up midway into his rookie season.

Sanders' "something" is his strong Baptist religious beliefs, so strong he contributed $210,000 — one-tenth of his $2.1 million signing bonus — to the Paradise Baptist Church in Wichita. Why so much? "Tithing," he replied. "It's in the Bible."

"You don't realize until you're out on the field how instantly quick he is," Glanville said. "He made one of the greatest runs on us all year and gained *one*.

"We got into the backfield and we were in there instantly. He made four of the best cuts you've ever seen to turn it into second and nine, where it should have been second and 15. Our best guys couldn't touch him."

There are not many things that bother Barry Sanders, either as a football player or a person. But he doesn't like being measured by numbers — height, weight, 40-yard dash time, rushing yardage, career goals and achievements, be they Heisman Trophies or Pro Bowl appearances or NFL records.

Thinking back on it now, he had little idea of the impact his 4.36-second dash in April 1989, would have on his career. Forty-yard dash times had never been that important.

"When I was at Oklahoma State we had maybe four or five running backs that had faster 40 times than I did," Sanders said, quietly. "But when we ran side by side, nobody ever beat me."

And it just might be that same competitive spirit that will provide more incentive for Sanders than any notch in the NFL record books or any comparisons with Payton, Brown or even O.J. Simpson, whom he respected so much as a youngster growing up in Wichita, Ka.

When Sanders eventually retires from football, his goal, he says, is not to be remembered as the NFL's all-time leading rusher.

"It is to be a part, along with the other guys, of turning the team around and making it a winner," he said. "Just being a natural competitor you want to win. They (Lions) have been notorious for losing; I think it would be nice to have notoriety for winning and maybe even go to the Super Bowl in the next 10 years or whatever."

The statistics, the records and league leadership, he says, are not that important to him. And he already has demonstrated as much.

In the Lions final game of the 1989 season, Sanders and Christian Okoye of Kansas City were running neck-and-neck for the NFL rushing title. The Chiefs' game against Miami ended earlier than the Lions' game in Atlanta, so with several minutes left in the game Fontes knew Sanders needed only 11 yards more to surpass Okoye's total of 1480 for the league lead.

Fontes could hardly believe his ears when, with the game well in hand, he prepared to send Sanders back into the game for the needed 11 yards.

"No, that's okay," Sanders told Fontes. "Tony Paige (his backup man) works hard in practice, let him play."

Although he plays the game hard and works hard in practice, Sanders won't guarantee he can match last year's numbers.

"I don't know," he said. "I don't want to say it really doesn't matter because it's a great game. But there is something to me more important than football. So if I do better statistically in the future, that would be great. If not, oh well. . . ."

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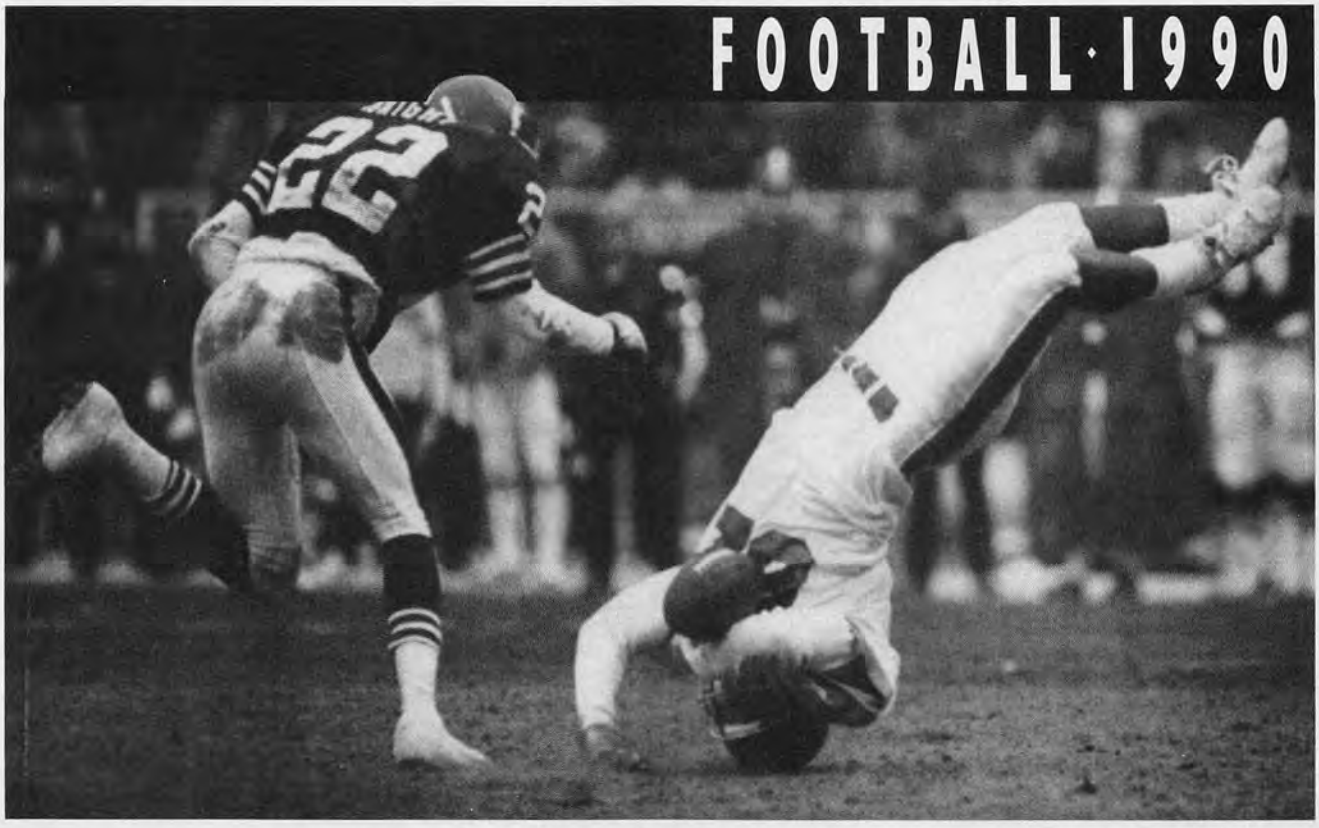
Unlike some Christian athletes, how-



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ever, Sanders does not wear his religion on his sleeve. For one thing, he is not "reborn." Christianity was part of the upbringing William and Shirley Sanders provided all 11 of their children. Barry attended Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and sang in the children's choir as a youngster. An older brother, Boyd, is a Baptist minister in Kansas City.

When he talks about his religious convictions — avoiding alcohol, drugs and fornication — he adds a word of advice at the end.

"You see so many people mention God and how they are Christians, then they go out and live their lives so contradictory to it," he once told a reporter. "Athletes, entertainers, plenty of people say 'Thank God' in public but their lifestyles show they really don't mean it. I try to live a Christian life and I guess time will tell. You'll see that in the future by what I do."

Does this religious conviction mean it is not important for Sanders to perform well as a football player?

"No, it's the opposite," he said. "He (God) has given me the ability so I have to go out and use it, and use it to the utmost. But at the same time, there is something more important."

It is Fontes' belief that Sanders can be as good as the Lions ask him to be, that he will do virtually everything asked of him.

The danger, of course, is burning him out and wearing him down with too much work and too many hits. It is something Fontes says he will avoid.

If his masterplan works according to his off-season scheme, Sanders will get the ball more often as a receiver in 1990 and will have even less exposure to the pounding of linebackers and defensive linemen.

"I want to put him into the passing game a little more," Fontes said. "Get him out in pass patterns. The linebackers may leave and we may have to run some quarterback draws, or it might open the passing lanes with him swinging out and the linebackers running out of there.

"I always want to be aware of how often he's touched the football. He's going into his second year and I don't want to pound him into the ground. I believe he is the future of our football team, so I want to make sure I don't over use him."

In his rookie season, Sanders averaged 19 carries and approximately 1.5 receptions per game in 15 games (he missed one game with a hip pointer early in the season). He averaged 5.3 yards per carry but, oddly, considering his speed and elusiveness, his longest run of the season was only 34 yards.

The explanation seems to be in the way opposing teams defense the stretch offense. Either they stack their front seven to stop Sanders immediately, or they pursue him with smaller, quicker running backs. They prevented him from breaking many long runs, but no one has stopped him dead in his tracks yet.

"He's a tough runner," said Minnesota coach Jerry Burns. "He's strong and with that run and shoot, they're moving out there all the time, and handing him the ball on those traps and draws. It keeps your people at home because of his ability to come on those counter draws and things like that.

"I think he's the ideal guy back there for the run and shoot," Burns added. "I think he could play in our offense or the Bears' offense or anybody else's offense. He's got unusual balance and quickness, lateral quickness, speed. He's just as premier a back as has come into the league in a long time."

So the questions remain: Can Sanders be even better in his second NFL season? How long can he last? How good can he really be? Will he be classed with the great backs of all time?

Glanville, now the head coach in Atlanta, had only one regret concerning Sanders; that he came out of Oklahoma State in 1989 instead of 1990, when the Falcons had the first pick in the draft. "I wish he was coming out this year," Glanville said. "I know what I'd do."

San Francisco running back Roger Craig isn't ready to give up the mantle of NFL greatness he's been wearing the last eight years, but when he met Sanders during the summer of 1989 he decided at least to share it.

"When he came to workout with me, he had a lot of questions," Craig said. "I just sat down and talked to him a little bit about the pressures of being a professional running back and everything that goes with it. Walter Payton did the same thing with me, so I'm just passing it on to the next guy and, hopefully, Barry will do the same thing."

Growing up under a stern but caring father, Sanders never lacked for a work ethic. Barry and his older brothers, Boyd and Byron, frequently were called on to help their father in his roofing and home repair business.

So when Sanders went to work with Craig last summer, running five to eight miles through the hills outside San Francisco, lifting weights and then working with the football, he was prepared to take it as it came.

"We worked on it each day to get better," Craig said. "He never complained about the work. I liked that. You could see that fire, plus that natural ability. He's a good kid and a good human being, as well as a good athlete.

"It's hard to find young guys coming out of college with that type of attitude, especially after winning the Heisman Trophy. To come in and be low key the way he was . . . he's going to go a long way with that attitude."

As much as Sanders is respected by those who see him from Sunday to Sunday, probably the people who appreciate him most are his Lions teammates. It wasn't just the Rolex watches that he bought for his offensive linemen that made him one of the more popular players on the team. It was his easy-going ways off the field and his professional approach on the field.

"I *looove* to block for that guy," said tackle Lomas Brown. "His burst is so quick. All you have to do is hold your block so the guy doesn't penetrate. Barry is there. It's great to have somebody like that."

So the questions remain: Can Sanders be even better in his second NFL season? How long can he last? How good can he really be? Will he be classed with the great backs of all time?

"It's up to him," Craig said. "If he continues to have a positive outlook and continues to perform year after year, I'm sure he can go down as one of the great running backs. He has a big heart and no one can judge the size of that heart but him."

As always, Sanders handles the questions simply and thoughtfully.

"My goal is to be the best I can be," he said. "That's not really a goal to be like O.J. Simpson, even though as a kid I really admired him and appreciated the way he played. That would be great to be remembered as a great player like those guys. I guess that would mean I'd done pretty good at my job."

At this point, you've got to like his chances.❑

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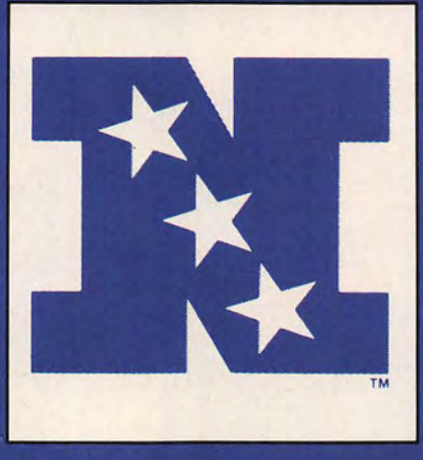


LOS ANGELES
RAMS

NEW ORLEANS
SAINTS

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

A SUPER THREE-PEAT FOR THE NINERS?

BY JOHN DELCOS

The motivation this year is history. It's the only obstacle left for the San Francisco 49ers.

Even before their 55-10 domination of the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXIV, the 49ers earned the reputation as the Team of the Decade. Their fourth Super Bowl championship sealed it.

Now, they are driven to be the team of the ages, and have few doubters — or challengers.

"A dynasty," said running back Roger Craig.

"I knew we were great, but I didn't think we were going to be this great," said safety Ronnie Lott. "No question, this is the most talented 49er team I've been on. It's as good as any Super Bowl winner."

As good as Vince Lombardi's Packers? As good as Miami's 17-0 perfect Dolphins? As good as Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain?

"It puts us in the same league with the greatest teams of all time," said nose tackle Pete Kugler. "With the Steelers, with all of them."

When quarterback Joe Montana speaks, people listen: "I hate to make comparisons with other teams. Ours is certainly one of the best. It would be hard for any team to be better than this team."

However, the rout in New Orleans seems farther away with each passing day.

"We've been wined and dined and put on a pedestal," said Coach George Seifert. "Now, it's time for us to get back to reality."

The reality is that Seifert in his second season running the show, could get another ring.

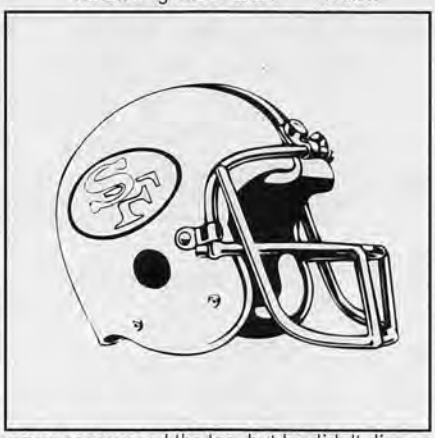
"As far as the talent of this football team and remembering some of those great Steeler teams, it's a question that won't be answered," Seifert said. "Those were the greatest teams at that particular time. This happens to be our time."

Seifert was the motivation last year.

Joe Montana: The Colossus of the gridiron.
GEORGE ROSE / ALLSPORT

The 49ers' defensive coordinator since 1983, he was a Jerry Rice fly pattern away from being the Cleveland Browns' head coach last season. Seifert was headed to Cleveland when he got a call from club president Eddie DeBartolo that he wanted him to replace the suddenly retired Bill Walsh.

Walsh's "genius" label — Walsh



never encouraged the tag, but he didn't discourage it, either — overshadowed the accomplishments of the players, save Montana and Rice. The 49ers wanted to win for Seifert, to prove the team wasn't a collection of Walsh puppets.

One of the major reasons the players like Seifert is because he knows how to check his ego at the door, something that couldn't always be said about Walsh.

"He's a breath of fresh air," Montana said.

In a way, Seifert was born for the 49ers. He grew up in San Francisco and, as a high school senior, worked the games as an usher at old Kezar Stadium. Thirty years later he owns the city — or at least shares it with Montana.

There were doubts when he first took the job. After all, here was this quiet guy — the fundamental opposite of Walsh — taking over the World Champions. Before, he existed in the background; now he's center-stage.

"All of a sudden, this little hermit doing X's and O's is in the spotlight," said linebacker Mike Walter. "Walsh loved to work the media and he had a smooth demeanor with a microphone. The big question everybody had was, 'How's George going to be Bill Walsh?'

"Well, he was smart. George tried to be himself, not Bill Walsh. George isn't going to knock them dead in a press conference. He's more like George Bush, who leans into the mike and tells you how things are going without all the flash. I guess George is a kinder, gentler coach."

Seifert seems almost embarrassed by all the attention. He knows he has great players and prefers that they bask in the limelight.

"I was part of the development of this team," Seifert said. "I don't really think it's necessary to attach my personality to this team. We all work very well together and there are enough accolades to go around."

When accolades are passed out, Montana is first in line.

"He's probably the greatest quarterback ever to play the game," Seifert said. "He's got great movement, great understanding of the system and he's a great competitor. Everybody rallies behind him. We all have an inner strength because of his strength."

However, Montana, 34, who is coming off his best season — he completed 70 percent of his passes for 3,521 yards, 26 touchdowns, only eight interceptions and a 112.4 efficiency rating — is popular with his teammates because he's quick to share the credit.

"Here's this great leader, and he constantly credits other people," Seifert said. "He never demeans anybody. He is always very encouraging. The team responds to that. That's the reason I think you see them blocking their hearts out for him."

During Super Bowl week, and in the postgame, while the media hung on Montana's every word, he talked about oth-

The underrated 49er defense is among the league's best. FRANK ANDERSON

ers. He talked about Seifert, about offensive coordinator Mike Holmgren, about the offensive line, about Craig, about Tom Rathman, about Rice, about the defense. "I'm just a piece of the puzzle," he said.

Montana also downplayed the idea that he was the best ever. "Those types of things are reserved for guys no longer in the game. I'm still very much a part of the game. I don't worry about that."

However, Montana's style — his personality and on-field fire — and the 49ers' reaction to it, is what makes this team.

When Montana's ex-wife trashed him the week before the Super Bowl, and when an unfounded report from a Washington television station linked him to drugs, the 49ers rallied around their quarterback the same way they did in the final drive against Cincinnati in the previous Super Bowl.

"We were very supportive of him regarding the allegations that came out," said guard Guy McIntyre. "Joe is a great player and he has given all he could for this team and we needed to stand behind him. That was the consensus.

"You can see him year in and year out going out there and playing sore, or beat up. When something like this happens, you have to stand behind your player."

Management is standing behind Montana the best way it knows how, by giving him a new contract. And further proof of the uniqueness of the 49ers, nobody, not even backup Steve Young, begrudges Montana's salary.

DeBartolo, rankled by the fact that Randall Cunningham, Bernie Kosar and Jim Everett signed contracts worth $44 million last year and don't have a Super Bowl appearance among them, said Montana would start this season as the highest-paid NFL player in history, putting him in the $3 million package range. This coming after Montana signed a three year extension in July 1988 that wasn't scheduled to take effect until this year.

This all means that Young, now 29, will have to wait before he gets control of the talented 49er attack. There's doubt that might ever happen. Young's value stays high because two or three times a season he comes off the bench to rally the 49ers when Montana goes down.

San Francisco might parlay that value into a deal for draft choices so it can continue to retool on the run, thereby making Steve Bono the future quarterback.

Save Montana, perhaps the most important 49er on offense continues to be Craig, who rushed for 1,054 yards and six touchdowns on 271 carries (3.9-yard average), but whose receiving totals dropped to 473 yards.

Craig's numbers were down from 1988, but he was potent in the playoffs — 62 carries for 288 yards and three touchdowns.

San Francisco will continue to de-emphasize Craig in the passing game because of the emergence of Rathman, who caught 73 passes for 616 yards, and rushed for an additional 305from his Fullback spot.

The 49ers go three-deep at running back, with Terrence Flagler — a starter on many teams — ready to spot Craig.

The receiving tandem of Rice and John Taylor is as explosive as any duo in history. Want more? Mike Wilson and Mike Sherrard — the latter was once a No. 1 pick of Dallas' who has recovered from a broken leg — enable the 49ers to use a four-receiver set.

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
67	**Aronson**, Doug	G	6-4	278	2	San Diego State
79	**Barton**, Harris	T	6-4	280	3	North Carolina
27	**Beach**, Sanjay	WR	6-1	190	1	Colorado State
13	**Bono**, Steve	QB	6-4	215	5	UCLA
65	**Bregel**, Jeff	G	6-4	280	3	Southern California
31	**Brooks**, Chet	S	5-11	191	2	Texas A&M
64	**Burt**, Jim	NT	6-1	260	9	Miami (FL)
95	**Carter**, Michael	NT	6-2	285	6	Southern Methodist
6	**Cofer**, Mike	K	6-1	190	2	North Carolina State
69	**Collie**, Bruce	G-T	6-6	275	5	Texas-Arlington
38	**Cox**, Greg	S	6-0	217	3	San Jose State
33	**Craig**, Roger	RB	6-0	214	7	Nebraska
68	**Cullity**, Dave	T	6-7	275	1	Utah
59	**DeLong**, Keith	LB	6-2	235	R	Tennessee
62	**Dillard**, Rodney	LB	6-3	230	1	Arizona State
28	**Dixon**, Hanford	S	6-0	185	10	Southern Mississippi
63	**Edeen**, David	DE	6-4	280	1	Wyoming
50	**Ellison**, Riki	LB	6-4	230	7	Southern California
75	**Fagan**, Kevin	DE	6-4	265	3	Miami (FL)
55	**Fahnhorst**, Jim	LB	6-4	230	6	Minnesota
64	**Fitts**, Matthew	T-G	6-4	280	1	Cal State-Fullerton
32	**Flagler**, Terrence	RB	6-0	200	3	Clemson
61	**Flesher**, Tom	DE	6-6	275	1	Weber State
49	**Fuller**, Jeff	S	6-2	216	6	Texas A&M
98	**Goss**, Antonio	LB	6-4	228	R	North Carolina
83	**Greer**, Terry	WR	6-1	192	4	Alabama State
29	**Griffin**, Don	CB	6-0	176	4	Middle Tennessee State
94	**Haley**, Charles	LB-DE	6-5	230	4	James Madison
65	**Hamilton**, Steve	DE	6-4	275	5	East Carolina
9	**Helton**, Barry	P	6-3	205	2	Colorado
30	**Henderson**, Keith	FB	6-1	220	R	Georgia
56	**Hendrickson**, Steve	LB	6-0	245	R	California
46	**Holmoe**, Tom	S	6-2	195	6	Brigham Young
78	**Holt**, Pierce	DE	6-4	280	2	Angelo State
4	**Horne**, Greg	P	6-0	190	3	Arkansas
40	**Jackson**, Johnny	S	6-1	204	R	Houston
25	**James**, Garry	RB	5-10	220	4	LSU
84	**Jones**, Brent	TE	6-4	230	3	Santa Clara
57	**Kennedy**, Sam	LB	6-3	235	2	San Jose State
36	**Knox**, Tyreese	RB	6-0	212	1	Nebraska
67	**Kugler**, Pete	NT	6-4	255	7	Penn State

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
60	**Lockett**, Danny	LB	6-2	250	3	Arizona
42	**Lott**, Ronnie	S	6-0	200	9	Southern California
62	**McIntyre**, Guy	G	6-3	265	6	Georgia
22	**McKyer**, Tim	CB	6-0	174	4	Texas-Arlington
54	**Millen**, Matt	LB	6-2	245	10	Penn State
16	**Montana**, Joe	QB	6-2	195	11	Notre Dame
77	**Paris**, Wm. "Bubba"	T	6-6	299	7	Michigan
26	**Pollard**, Darryl	CB	5-11	187	3	Weber State
76	**Putzier**, Rollin	NT	6-4	279	2	Oregon
57	**Radloff**, Wayne	C	6-5	277	6	Georgia
44	**Rathman**, Tom	FB	6-1	232	4	Nebraska
80	**Rice**, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	5	Mississippi Valley State
91	**Roberts**, Larry	DE	6-3	275	4	Alabama
53	**Romanowski**, Bill	LB	6-4	231	2	Boston College
61	**Sapolu**, Jesse	C-G	6-4	260	4	Hawaii
71	**Shannon**, John	DE	6-3	270	3	Kentucky
88	**Sherrard**, Mike	WR	6-2	187	2	UCLA
92	**Siglar**, Ricky	T	6-7	296	1	San Jose State
18	**Slater**, Brian	WR	6-4	200	1	Washington
72	**Smerlas**, Fred	NT	6-4	291	12	Boston College
90	**Stephenson**, Jeff	LB	6-4	240	1	St. Cloud State
96	**Stubbs**, Daniel	DE	6-4	260	2	Miami (FL)
32	**Swoope**, Craig	S	6-2	210	4	Illinois
24	**Sydney**, Harry	FB	6-0	217	3	Kansas
66	**Tausch**, Terry	G	6-5	276	8	Texas
82	**Taylor**, John	WR	6-1	185	3	Delaware State
47	**Tennell**, Derek	TE	6-5	248	4	UCLA
60	**Thomas**, Chuck	C-G	6-3	280	4	Oklahoma
23	**Tillman**, Spencer	RB	5-11	206	3	Oklahoma
58	**Turner**, Keena	LB	6-2	222	10	Purdue
74	**Wallace**, Steve	T	6-5	276	4	Auburn
89	**Walls**, Wesley	TE	6-5	246	R	Mississippi
99	**Walter**, Michael	LB	6-3	238	7	Oregon
51	**Washington**, Chris	LB	6-4	240	6	Iowa State
43	**Waymer**, Dave	S	6-1	188	11	Notre Dame
74	**Weir**, Robert	NT	6-3	270	1	SMU
52	**Wiese**, Brett	G-C	6-4	280	1	Washington
81	**Williams**, Jamie	TE	6-4	245	7	Nebraska
85	**Wilson**, Mike	WR	6-3	215	9	Washington State
21	**Wright**, Eric	CB	6-1	185	8	Missouri
8	**Young**, Steve	QB	6-2	200	5	Brigham Young

49ERS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Dexter **CARTER** *TB*	5-9, 168	**Florida State**	Recently timed at 4.44 in the 40 . . . Averaged 7.8 yards every time he touched the ball . . . Finished his career with 22 TDs and 3,260 all-purpose yards . . . Led the team with 684 yards and 8 TDs on 131 caries (5.2 avg.).
2	Dennis **BROWN** *DT*	6-4, 308	**Washington**	Extremely strong and agile . . . Ranks second on the team's all-time list for tackles for losses with 41, 7 shy of Ron Holmes' school record of 48 . . . Made 37 tackles (22 solos) with 3 sacks and 12 stops for 46 yards in losses and caused 2 fumbles in 1989.
3	Eric **DAVIS** *CB-S*	5-11, 176	**Jacksonville State**	All-Gulf South Conference . . . Led team and ranked seventh in the conference with 8 sacks and 13 stops for 62 yards in losses.
3	Ronald **LEWIS** *WR*	5-11, 172	**Florida State**	Has 4.56 speed in the 40 . . . Ranks ninth on the school's all-time list with 85 receptions and eighth with 1,582 yards receiving . . . Had 27 receptions for 535 yards (19.8 avg.) and 3 TDs in 1989.
4	Dean **CALIGUIRE** *C*	6-3, 265	**Pittsburgh**	Anchor of the Panthers' talented offensive line . . . Versatile performer who has played both guard and center during his career . . . Bench presses over 420 pounds with a 600 pound squat . . . Very quick for a player his size with 5.12 speed in the 40 . . . Displays solid pass protection skills and is explosive at the point of attack . . . Had a banner senior campaign cut short by a broken ankle in the ninth game . . . Graded over 85% for blocking consistency in every game.
6	Frank **POLLACK** *OG*	6-5, 286	**Northern Arizona**	Tremendous pass protector . . . Moved into the starting lineup as a 17-year-old freshman . . . Has great lower body strength . . . Graded at least 80% for blocking consistency in every game.
8	Dwight **PICKENS** *WR*	5-10, 170	**Fresno State**	Has only three years of organized football under his belt . . . Recently timed at 4.51 in the 40 . . . All-Big West Conference . . . Ranked fourth in the country with 32 punts returns for 472 yards (14.8 avg.) and 1 TD . . . Led the Bulldogs with 32 receptions for 673 yards (21.0 avg.) and 6 TDs.
9	Odell **HAGGINS** *NG*	6-2, 261	**Florida State**	Punishing tackler with outstanding strength . . . Bench presses 420 pounds . . . All-American selection by Kodak and Walter Camp and honorable mention from The Sporting News . . . Became only the second nose guard in school history to record 100 tackles in a season.
10	Martin **HARRISON** *DE*	6-5, 240	**Washington**	Rangy pass defender with fine foot speed . . . Has 4.84 speed in the 40 . . . Had a banner senior campaign, finishing second on the team with 101 tackles (48 solos) . . . Led the Huskies with 7 sacks . . . Tied the school season record with 21 tackles for 72 yards in losses.
11	Anthony **SHELTON** *SS*	6-1, 185	**Tennessee State**	Had third highest total tackles in 1989 with 80 (60 solos) . . . Had 10 pass breakups, second on the team . . . Also had 3 interceptions for 58 yards.

Rice continues to be Rice, which means he's the best. He caught 82 passes for 1,483 yards (18.1) and 17 touchdowns. He added five more touchdowns in the playoffs.

Taylor caught 60 passes for 1,077 yards (18.0) and 10 touchdowns. Two of them were 90-yard catch-and-carries against the Los Angeles Rams in December in a game that gave the 49ers the NFC West title and homefield throughout the playoffs.

Expect tight end Brent Jones (40 catches for 500 yards) to be re-signed. He was left unprotected in Plan B, but was offered a deal if he'd ignore other teams and return to the fold.

Three years ago, the offensive line was a concern. San Francisco rebuilt its line on the run and now it's considered a strength. The 49ers rotate seven linemen a game.

Bubba Paris and Steve Wallace share left tackle while Bruce Collie and Terry Tausch split time at right guard. Left guard McIntyre, right tackle Harris Barton, and center Jesse Sapolu are rocks.

The 49ers amassed several impressive statistics in their blitz through the playoffs — allowing only one sack ranks among the top. Here's another — of the 59 times the 49ers drove inside their opponent's 20-yard line during the season, they came away with points 49 times, including 30 touchdowns.

Jerry Rice is the game's most feared receiver. PAUL JASIENSKI

The dismantling of the Broncos wasn't a one-time deal. The 49ers routed Minnesota 41-13 and the Rams, 30-3. Both games were over before they started.

While everybody was talking about the 49ers' 443 yards in total offense against the Rams and Montana — and, let's face it, he's hard to ignore — lost in the shuffle was a defense which held Los Angeles to 156 yards, including a season-low 26 on the ground. And these are the Rams, a team with two 1,000 yard receivers and Everett, a quarterback who threw 31 touchdown passes.

"It's always our offense, but nobody is getting any points on us," Montana said after the Super Bowl. "Somebody said to me, 'You ran 46 plays in the first.' That's a lot. But our defense was executing, getting us the ball."

The 49ers had the NFL's fourth-ranked defense, allowing 288.6 yards a game (86.4 rushing and 202.2 passing). In the playoffs, the 49ers allowed 270 yards a game, including a microscopic 56 on the ground.

The defensive line should be even better this year if nose tackle Michael Carter is healthy. Carter's presence often draws double-team blocking, which creates mismatches on the line and enables the linebackers to make the tackle.

With Carter hurt much of last year, the 49ers rotated Kugler and free-agent Jim Burt. Kugler is a starter on most teams; Burt, left unprotected in Plan B, could be re-signed.

Elsewhere on the line, Pierce Holt has become a Sack Monster (10.5) and Kevin Fagan is steady. Larry Roberts and Danny Stubbs — the latter a designated pass rusher (4.5 sacks) — provide solid depth.

Like the rest of the defense, the linebackers are underrated, but effective. Left outside backer Charles Haley (10.5 sacks) could be more effective if the 49ers let him freelance the way the New York Giants let Lawrence Taylor roam. Keena Turner and Bill Romanowski share the left outside spot.

On the inside, Riki Ellison and Jim Fahnhorst were injured last season, which opened the door for free agent Matt Millen to be signed. Walter is consistently and quietly becoming one of the league's best.

In the secondary, free safety Lott recovered from an early-season injury and was his big-play self down the stretch. Strong safety Chet Brooks was a find in the 11th round.

Cornerbacks Don Griffin and Darryl Pollard played in-your-jersey man-to-man and picked up the slack when Tim McKyer was suspended. Look for McKyer to put the nonsense behind him and play to his 1988 level.

San Francisco's special teams also produce big-time. Mike Cofer converted 29-of-36 field goals and 49-of-51 extra points for 136 points. Punter Barry Helton kicked for a 40.5 average, and dropped 13 inside the 20.

The pieces are there. Offense, defense, special teams, coaching, desire and, of course, Montana.

The 49ers are ready for a run at history.❑

49ERS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	49ERS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	350	283
Rushing	124	76
Passing	209	178
Penalty	17	29
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	80/189	76/210
4th Down: Made/Atts.	6/9	9/19
TOTAL NET YARDS	6268	4618
Avg. Per Game	391.8	288.6
Total Plays	1021	979
Avg. Per Play	6.1	4.7
NET YARDS RUSHING	1966	1383
Avg. Per Game	122.9	86.4
Total Rushes	493	372
NET YARDS PASSING	4302	3235
Avg. Per Game	268.9	202.2
Tackled/Yards Lost	45/282	43/333
Gross Yards	4584	3568
Attempts/Completions	483/339	564/316
Pct. of Completions	70.2	56.0
Had Intercepted	11	21
PUNTS/AVERAGE	56/39.8	74/38.9
NET PUNTING AVG.	31.2	32.0
PENALTIES/YARDS	110/922	75/581
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	32/14	34/16
TOUCHDOWNS	51	26
Rushing	14	9
Passing	35	15
Returns	2	2

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
49ERS	67	137	64	174	0	442
OPP. TOTAL	59	77	53	64	0	253

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Cofer	3-3	8-8	8-9	10-15	0-1	29-36

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Craig	271	1054	3.9	27	6
Rathman	79	305	3.9	13	1
Montana	49	227	4.6	19	3

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Rice	82	1483	18.1	t68	17
Rathman	73	616	8.4	36	1
Taylor	60	1077	18.0	t95	10
Craig	49	473	9.7	44	1
Jones	40	500	12.5	t36	4

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Lott	5	34	6.8	28	0
Brooks	3	31	10.3	19	0
Wright	2	37	18.5	23	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Helton	55	2226	40.5	6	13	56	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Taylor	36	20	417	11.6	37	0
Griffin	1	0	9	9.0	9	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Flagler	32	643	20.1	41	0
Tillman	10	206	20.6	60	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Montana	386	271	3521	70.2	9.12	26	6.7	8	2.1	t95	33/198	112.4
Young	92	64	1001	69.6	10.88	8	8.7	3	3.3	t50	12/84	120.8

LOS ANGELES RAMS

RAMS ARE THINKING SUPER THOUGHTS

BY KEN PETERS

The Rams were always there, knocking on the door.

And when the 1980s drew to a close, they were still out there in the cold, watching as their glamorous rivals from Northern California, the 49ers, polished their growing inventory of Super Bowl rings.

Los Angeles finished with a 13-6 overall record and, against the odds, survived three consecutive trips to the East Coast — earning a wild card berth with a victory over New England, then beating Philadelphia and the New York Giants in the playoffs before reaching the end of the road in San Francisco.

The closing chapter of the 1980s seemed somehow all too familiar to the Rams, who had fine records almost every season but won just one NFC West title, in 1985, while the 49ers dominated the division and won the Super Bowl four times.

The Rams fought their way into the playoffs six of the past seven seasons but were in the unenviable spot of being a wild card team with the exception of 1985, when they ran into the powerful Chicago Bears — that year's version of the 1989 49ers — in the NFC title game and lost 24-0.

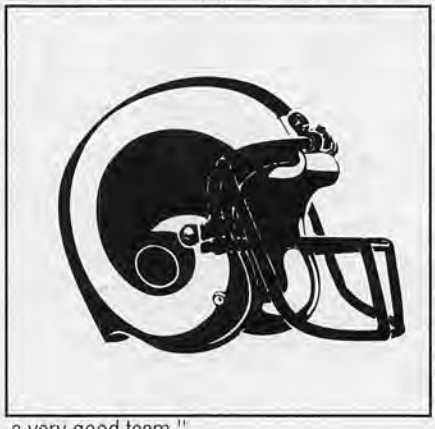
Heading into the first season of the 90s, the Rams will again be branded as a team that's just a step away from glory.

They appear to need only a healthy defense, a slightly improved running game and some improvement in their short passing game to make that final step.

The Rams were considered by some observers to be the second-best team in the league in 1989. Their 30-3 loss to the 49ers in the conference title game might seem to belie that opinion, until one considers that San Francisco manhandled a strong Minnesota team 41-13 in the playoffs, then completely outclassed Denver in the Super Bowl, humbling the Broncos 55-10.

Rams coach John Robinson thinks his team, and possibly the New Orleans Saints, can challenge the 49ers in the NFC West this year. He said the 49ers are certainly capable of winning their third straight Super Bowl, but added, "We can beat them. Several teams can....

"The NFC West will certainly be the most competitive division in the league. New Orleans is a very good team, and we're



a very good team."

The Rams had the NFL's premier runner for much of the 1980s, Eric Dickerson, and they go into the new decade with one of the league's finest young quarterbacks, Jim Everett.

Although the Rams' running game obviously has dropped off some since Dickerson was traded to Indianapolis in 1987, they've maintained enough of a rushing threat, first with Charles White and then with Greg Bell, to keep opponents from zeroing in on Everett and his receivers.

This season, Robinson plans to try to make the rush even more of a threat, employing a two-back offense that will give the multi-talented Robert Delpino and Cleveland Gary, the powerful second-year runner out of Miami, more chances to handle the ball.

Los Angeles' defense, meanwhile, has been helped by an infusion of new players, although injuries throughout last season left the Rams threadbare defensively by the time they got to the 49ers in the NFC title game.

The Rams' passing attack will continue to be their most formidable weapon as they try to unseat the 49ers.

Everett set team passing records last year for most yards (4,310), most attempts (518) and most consecutive completions (18). He led the league with 29 touchdown passes, was second in passing yardage and average gain per attempt (8.32). And he finished second in passing efficiency (90.6) to Joe Montana in the NFC.

The continued improvement shows that Everett is growing ever more comfortable in the Ernie Zampese-designed passing attack.

"It was very frustrating at times," Everett said of his adjustment to the passing techniques favored by Zampese, who was the architect of the Dan Fouts-led San Diego Chargers' passing attack before joining the Rams' staff four years ago.

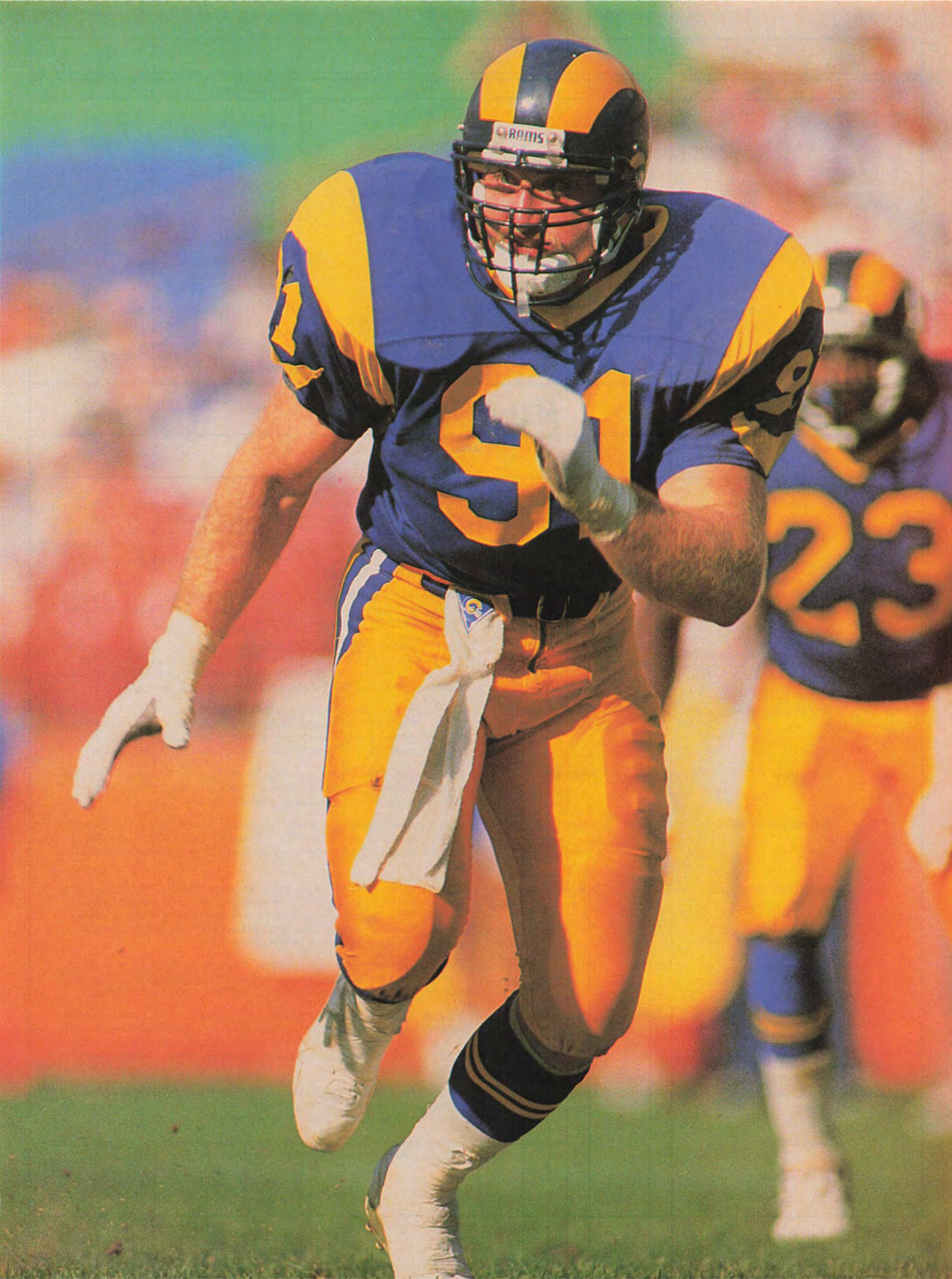
After Eric Dickerson left, Ernie said, "This will work, this will work!"

Everett said, "But it wasn't working at first, and we weren't winning. Then all of a sudden, it began to click. He tells me to let go of the ball, even if I'm throwing right at a defender. I have to believe our guy is going to catch it. My instinct was saying, 'No, don't throw it,' but Ernie was saying to let it go. I believe now. I believe in Ernie, and I believe in our receivers."

Everett also has the comfort of knowing that, barring injury, he'll be taking the snaps every week.

"It's totally different now," he says. "It was a revolving door for quarterbacks when

Kevin Greene anchors solid Ram defense.
MIKE POWELL / ALLSPORT


RAMS
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23

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
83	**Anderson**, Willie	WR	6-0	172	3	UCLA
42	**Bell**, Greg	RB	5-10	210	7	Notre Dame
57	**Bethune**, George	LB	6-4	240	2	Alabama
88	**Carter**, Pat	TE	6-4	250	3	Florida State
84	**Cox**, Aaron	WR	5-9	178	3	Arizona State
72	**Cox**, Robert	T	6-5	285	5	UCLA
14	**Craig**, Paco	WR	5-10	170	2	UCLA
39	**Delpino**, Robert	FB	6-0	205	3	Missouri
80	**Ellard**, Henry	WR	5-11	182	8	Fresno State
11	**Everett**, Jim	QB	6-5	212	5	Purdue
51	**Faryniarz**, Brett	LB	6-3	235	3	San Diego State
43	**Gary**, Cleveland	RB	6-0	226	2	Miami (FL)
25	**Gray**, Jerry	CB	6-0	185	6	Texas
30	**Green**, Gaston	RB	5-11	192	3	UCLA
91	**Greene**, Kevin	LB	6-3	250	6	Auburn
70	**Hawkins**, Bill	DT	6-6	268	2	Miami (FL)
20	**Henley**, Darryl	CB	5-9	170	2	UCLA
9	**Hermann**, Mark	QB	6-4	202	10	Purdue
28	**Hicks**, Clifford	CB	5-10	188	4	Oregon
81	**Holohan**, Pete	TE	6-4	232	10	Notre Dame
8	**Ilesic**, Hank	P	6-1	210	2	No College
31	**Jackson**, Alfred	CB	6-0	177	2	San Diego State
86	**Johnson**, Damone	TE	6-4	250	5	Cal Poly SLO

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
52	**Kelm**, Larry	LB	6-4	240	4	Texas A&M
1	**Lansford**, Mike	PK	6-0	190	9	Washington
67	**Love**, Duval	G	6-3	287	6	UCLA
90	**McDonald**, Mike	LB	6-1	235	6	USC
24	**McGee**, Buford	RB	6-0	210	7	Mississippi
71	**Milinichik**, Joe	G	6-5	275	4	North Carolina State
66	**Newberry**, Tom	G	6-2	285	5	Wisconsin-LaCrosse
26	**Newman**, Anthony	S	6-0	199	3	Oregon
22	**Newsome**, Vince	S	6-1	185	8	Washington
58	**Owens**, Mel	LB	6-2	240	10	Michigan
75	**Pankey**, Irv	T	6-5	295	11	Penn State
95	**Piel**, Mike	DT	6-4	263	2	Illinois
93	**Reed**, Doug	DE	6-3	265	7	San Diego State
78	**Slater**, Jackie	T	6-4	285	15	Jackson State
96	**Smith**, Brian	LB-DT	6-6	242	2	Auburn
56	**Smith**, Doug	C	6-3	272	13	Bowling Green
97	**Smith**, Sean	DT	6-4	275	4	Grambling
50	**Stams**, Frank	LB	6-2	240	2	Notre Dame
23	**Stewart**, Michael	S	6-0	195	4	Fresno State
53	**Strickland**, Fred	LB	6-2	250	3	Purdue
21	**Warner**, Kurt	RB	5-11	205	8	Penn State
54	**Wilcher**, Mike	LB	6-3	245	8	North Carolina
99	**Wright**, Alvin	NT	6-2	285	5	Jacksonville State

RAMS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Bern **BROSTEK** *C*	6-3, 300	**Washington**	Has been a mainstay on the Husky offensive line the last three years . . . Started 41 of the Husky's last 42 contests . . . Mastered the shot gun snap, also excelling as a deep snapper . . . Consistently finishes off his blocks . . . Drops back smoothly in passing situations and holds his ground firmly on power charges . . . Blessed with exceptional quickness for a player his size with 5.31 speed in the 40 . . . All-Pac-10 Conference, winning the Morris Trophy given to the conference's top lineman.
2	Pat **TERRELL** *FS*	6-0, 195	**Notre Dame**	Possesses 4.48 speed in the 40 . . . Punishing tackler and All-American selection . . . Recorded 44 tackles (22 solos) and led the team with 9 pass deflections . . . Intercepted 5 passes for 96 yards in returns with 1 TD and 1 recovered fumble.
3	Latin **BERRY** *FB-HB*	5-10, 196	**Oregon**	Possesses the leg strength to make the tough yardage up the middle . . . Effective receiver coming out of the backfield . . . Closed out his career ninth on the Ducks' all-time rushing list with 1,548 yards . . . Played in nine games at fullback, finishing with 520 yards and 3 TDs on 92 carries (5.6 avg.) in 1989 . . . Caught 23 passes for 265 yards (11.5 avg.) and a score.
6	Tim **STALLWORTH** *WR*	5-10, 177	**Washington State**	Closed out his career third on the Cougars' all-time list with 125 receptions . . . Has 4.53 speed in the 40 . . . Was having a banner senior campaign until suffering a knee injury in the sixth game . . . Finished third on the squad in scoring and receiving . . . Had 30 receptions for 548 yards (18.3 avg.) and 5 TDs . . . Established himself as one of the best deep threats in the nation.
7	Kent **ELMORE** *P*	6-2, 180	**Tennessee**	Outstanding long-distance punter, known for his towering kicks . . . Has a very quick release with tremendous hang time . . . Punted 43 times for 1,727 yards (40.2 avg.) . . . Had all 5 punts downed inside the 20-yard line (36.2 avg.) in a 28-6 defeat of Duke.
8	Ray **SAVAGE** *OLB-DE*	6-2, 233	**Virginia**	Quick lineman with fine pass rushing skills . . . Ranks fourth on the school's all-time list with 302 tackles . . . All-American selection by Kodak . . . All-Atlantic Coast Conference . . . Finished second on the team with a career high 91 tackles (49 solos) . . . Caused a fumble and deflected 7 passes.
8	Elbert **CRAWFORD** *C*	6-3, 271	**Arkansas**	Extremely versatile athlete who can play any position on the front wall . . . Has also seen playing time at defensive tackle and tight end . . . Possesses great speed and fine strength . . . Adjusts well in pass protection and explodes off the ball sharply in drive blocking situations . . . All-Southwest Conference . . . Provided outstanding blocking for an offense that accounted for 4,926 yards, the second highest season total in school history.
9	Tony **LOMACK** *WR*	5-8, 180	**Florida**	Caught 38 passes for 578 yards in four seasons . . . Also had 19 rushes for 131 yards, 25 punt returns for 104 yards and 30 kickoff returns for 710 yards . . . Caught 9 passes for 183 yards and had 18 kickoff returns for 436 yards as a senior . . . His 22 receptions led the team in 1988.
10	Stephen **BATES** *DE-OLB*	6-4, 249	**James Madison**	Extremely quick and agile for a player his size . . . Recently timed at 4.91 in the 40 . . . Versatile player who began his collegiate career as a tight end, moving to the defensive line before settling in as an outside linebacker . . . All-State pick . . . Recorded 46 tackles (16 solos) with 4.5 sacks and 8 stops for 28 yards in losses . . . Caused and recovered 1 fumble . . . Deflected 4 passes and blocked a punt.
11	Bill **GOLDBERG** *DT*	6-3, 266	**Georgia**	His 121 tackles in 1989 broke his own school record (107) for most tackles in one season by an interior defensive lineman . . . His 348 career tackles ranks seventh on the all-time Georgia tackle list . . . His 12 career QB sacks ranks sixth in the record book.
12	David **LANG** *TB*	5-11, 198	**Northern Arizona**	Recently timed at 4.45 in the 40 . . . Led the Lumberjacks in rushing with 521 yards and 4 TDs on 94 carries (4.5 avg.) . . . Led the team with 41 receptions for 447 yards (10.9 avg.) and 1 TD.

I came here. The offense basically was 29 (Dickerson's number) pitch right, pitch left, throw a couple of passes. That basically was the offense.

"The adding of Ernie Zampese to the staff showed John Robinson's insight on where this program was headed. He [Zampese] is the best in the business."

Zampese said Everett who, at 27, is in his fifth pro season, will only get better.

"Jim's a special player," Zampese said. "He's eager to learn, he works hard and he's intent on improving."

As Everett has emerged as one of the league's top passers, the Rams' receiving corps has blossomed.

Second-year pro Willie "Flipper" Anderson led the league with an average of 26 yards per reception and set a single-game receiving record with 336 yards against New Orleans.

Henry Ellard was fourth in the league with 1,382 yards on 70 receptions.

Aaron Cox, a starter until he was hurt last season, gives the Rams a third deep threat.

While the Rams' passing game appears set, Robinson wants to make sure that his team doesn't forget about running the football.

Like most coaches, he is constantly striving for a balanced offensive attack, although his personnel during much of his time with the Rams has dictated either the run or the pass.

"The passing game is very seductive," he said. "You start putting touchdowns up there in a hurry and you think, `Hey, this is easy.' But when that's all you can do and other people know it, it suddenly isn't so easy anymore."

Bell, like Charles White before him, has been a successful if not spectacular running back for Los Angeles.

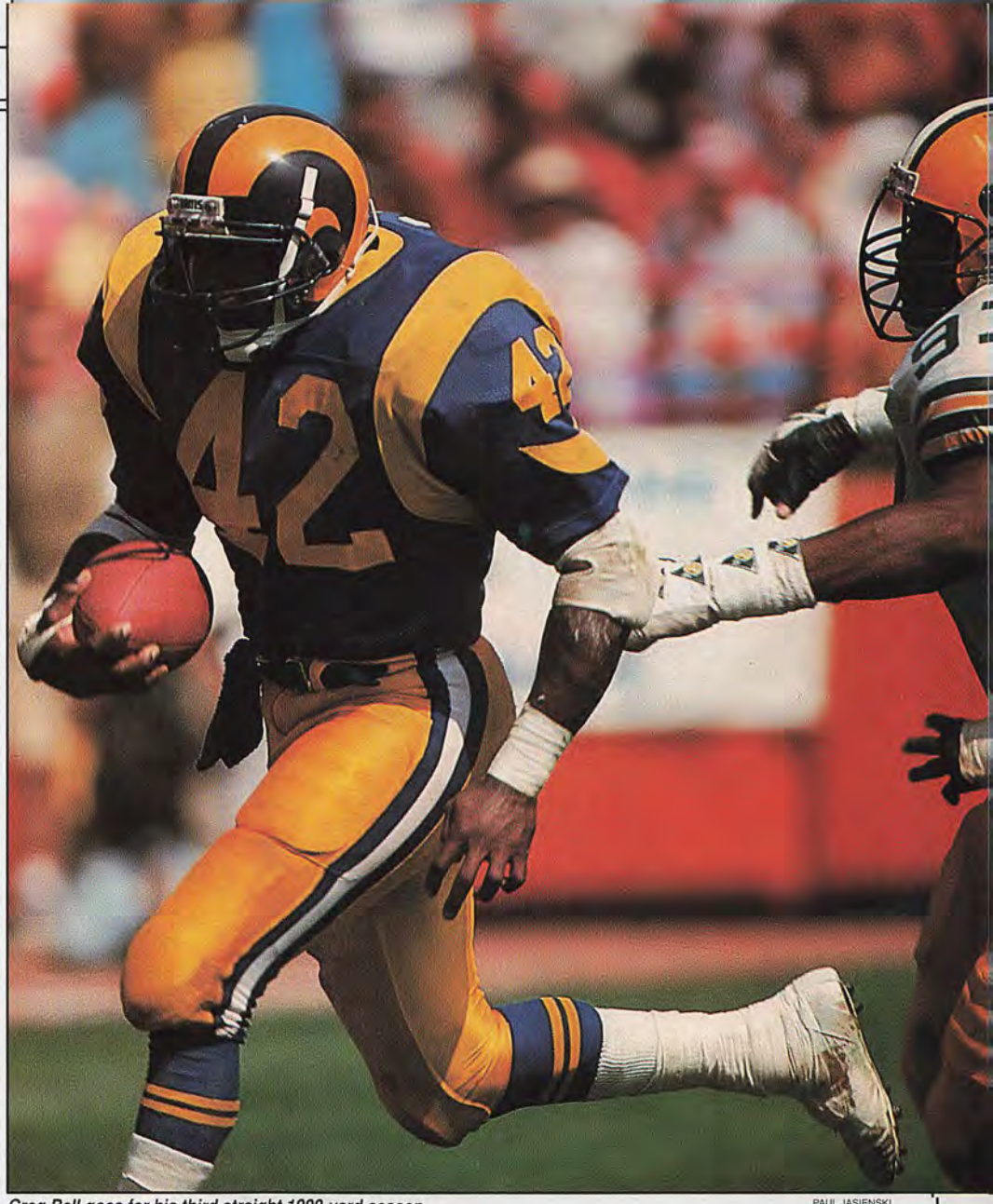
He topped 1,000 yards rushing in 1989 for the second consecutive season, finishing fourth in the NFC with 1,137 yards, averaging a healthy 4.2 yards per carry.

The high numbers posted by White who led the league in rushing the year Dickerson was traded, and Bell, both journeymen who had limited success with other teams earlier in their careers, would seem to reflect the talent of the Rams' offensive line and the effectiveness of Robinson's approach.

After all, Robinson holds the distinction of having tutored some outstanding players: the leading single-season rusher in college when he was at Southern Cal — Marcus Allen with 2,427 yards; and the leading rusher in the NFL — Rams player Dickerson with 2,105 yards.

Robinson continues to focus on improving the running game, although he always bristles a little when it is suggested that he feels uncomfortable with the passing game.

"I'm totally at ease with our offense," he said. "I think the perception that I would sooner run than pass has always been a wrong perception.



Greg Bell goes for his third straight 1000-yard season. PAUL JASIENSKI

"In the earlier days when we were talking about it (the pre-Everett era), people always thought I was lying. I just didn't have a good quarterback. The years you don't have a good quarterback, you don't pass, you go to the run. I've had a lot of those years."

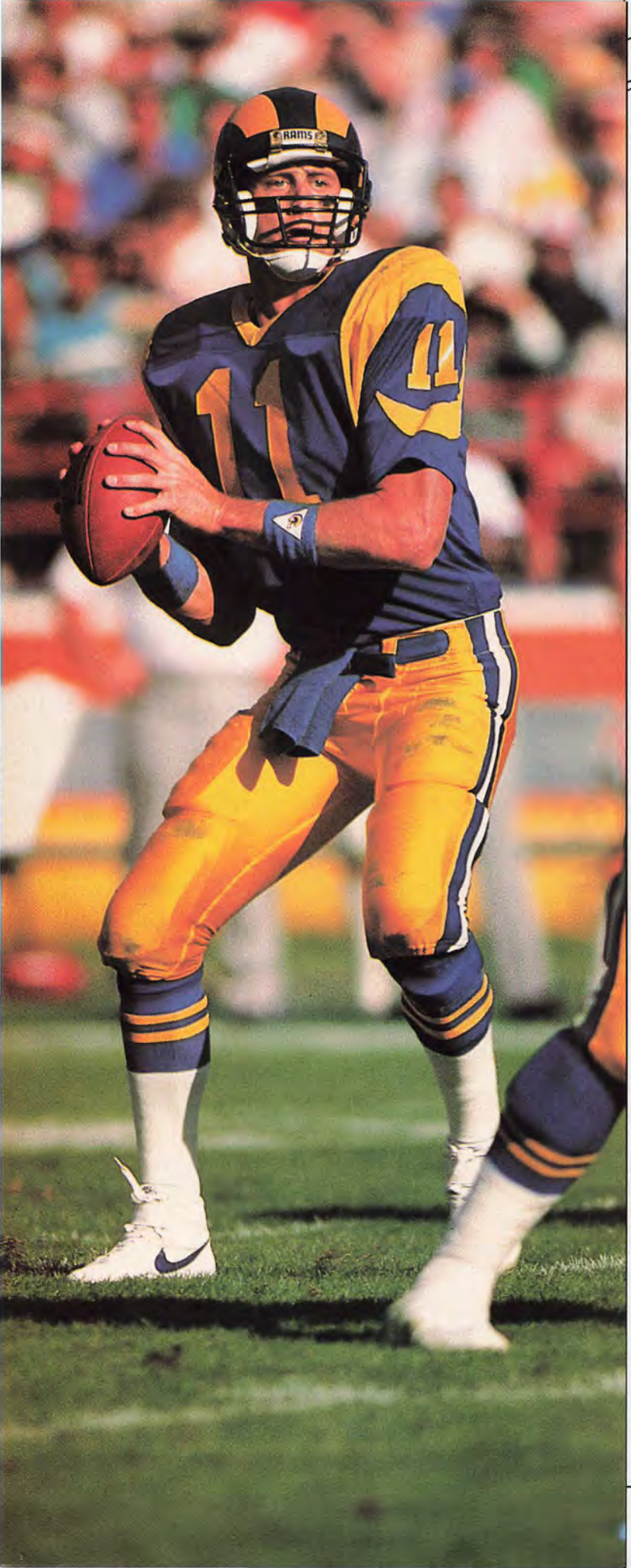
He added, "I get worried about our running game. You have to fight to keep the run going because the pass is so seductive."

Robinson said blending his and Zampese's ideas in the offense has gone smoothly.

"I think the cooperation on what we're trying to do with our offense has been fabulous," he said. "There's no kind of rivalry. I remember reading 'Robinson's offense' or 'Ernie's offense.' That's not how it is. During practice I try to make sure the run works, and I give Ernie the responsibility to make the pass successful."

One area that may be of concern is the graying of the offensive line which has performed so well for so long. Their interior line last season included center Doug Smith, who will be 34 this year; and tackles Jackie Slater, 36; and Irv Pankey, 32.

Interestingly, none of that trio showed much sign of slowing down in 1989 — Smith and Slater played in the Pro Bowl, and



Pankey almost always got high grades in game films.

Robert Cox, a fourth-year pro, is expected to replace the elder statesman of the offensive line, Slater, within the next couple of years. Slater would like to become the team's all-time leader in games played, and goes into this season just 14 away from Merlin Olsen's club record of 208.

Guard Tom Newberry, a fifth-year pro, has become one of the league's best at his position and has started in the Pro Bowl the past two years.

Defensively, the Rams hope they don't have to improvise as much this year as they did in 1989, when injuries gave their alignment a new look almost every week.

Against the 49ers in the NFC title game, the Los Angeles defense was missing tackles Doug Reed and Bill Hawkins, cornerback Clifford Hicks, and safeties Vince Newsome and Anthony Newman. And defensive end Mike Piel went out in the first half when he suffered a dislocated elbow.

The Rams were so strapped in the secondary that they signed Johnnie Johnson, a 33-year-old former Ram safety who was working as a real estate salesman prior to the conference championship game.

Perhaps the most important returnee on defense is coach Fritz Shurmur, who managed to patch up and innovate enough to get the Rams into the playoffs, then past the Philadelphia Eagles and New York Giants.

Shurmur, the Rams' defensive coordinator since 1983, had used such unusual alignments as five linebackers and two down linemen, then last year went with a four-linebacker rush unit.

Shurmur appeared a strong candidate for a head coaching job but did not make a match, so he'll be back at his regular duty with the Rams.

Los Angeles finished 21st in team defense last year, but that figures to improve significantly this season unless they have a similar run of injuries.

Kevin Greene, with 16 1/2 sacks last season, has emerged as one of the league's better pass rushers, and a healthy Bill Hawkins would enable the Rams to pressure quarterbacks from both sides.

Three young linebackers — Frank Stams, Fred Strickland and Larry Kelm — appear to have the talent to make significant contributions to Los Angeles' defense. As in the secondary, injuries and adjustments made it difficult for the Rams' linebacking corps to jell into a cohesive unit in 1989.

One switch that may be in the offing is Jerry Gray from cornerback to free safety. Gray has made the Pro Bowl four times as a corner, although he — and Robinson — would prefer that he play safety.

While the Rams will go into the season looking solid in personnel and approach, they also seemed to have developed an important intangible last year. Despite the disheartening loss at San Francisco in the NFC West showdown, Everett and crew seemed to have developed a knack of winning big games, and winning in the final minutes.

They had nine down-to-the-wire finishes last season and won six of them, including a last-second, 13-12 victory over the 49ers in the fourth game of the season.

"We gained a lot of confidence," Everett said. "Now we feel that when the game's on the line, we're going to pull it out. It all trickles down from Coach Robinson to his staff to the players. We really believe it."❑

Jim Everett is one of the NFL's finest young quarterbacks.
PAUL JASIENSKI

RAMS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	RAMS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	321	306
Rushing	107	101
Passing	197	181
Penalty	17	24
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	87/215	81/215
4th Down: Made/Atts.	9/15	6/13
TOTAL NET YARDS	6042	5567
Avg. Per Game	377.6	347.9
Total Plays	1027	1023
Avg. Per Play	5.9	5.4
NET YARDS RUSHING	1909	1543
Avg. Per Game	119.3	96.4
Total Rushes	472	404
NET YARDS PASSING	4133	4024
Avg. Per Game	258.3	251.5
Tackled/Yards Lost	32/236	42/278
Gross Yards	4369	4302
Attempts/Completions	523/308	577/345
Pct. of Completions	58.9	59.8
Had Intercepted	18	21
PUNTS/AVERAGE	74/38.3	81/41.5
NET PUNTING AVG.	32.1	34.7
PENALTIES/YARDS	102/823	93/802
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	26/11	38/15
TOUCHDOWNS	51	38
Rushing	19	13
Passing	29	24
Returns	3	1

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
RAMS	122	124	61	116	3	426
OPP. TOTAL	50	87	83	122	2	344

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Lansford	1-1	7-8	7-7	8-10	0-4	23-30

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Bell	272	1137	4.2	47	15
Delpino	78	368	4.7	t32	1
Gary	37	163	4.4	18	1

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Ellard	70	1382	19.7	53	8
Holohan	51	510	10.0	31	2
Anderson	44	1146	26.0	t78	5
McGee	37	303	8.2	25	4
Delpino	34	334	9.8	25	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Gray	6	48	8.0	t27	1
Irvin	3	43	14.3	18	0
Stewart	2	76	38.0	t41	1

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Hatcher	73	2834	38.8	7	15	54	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Henley	29	19	273	9.4	25	0
Hicks	4	3	39	9.8	15	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
R. Brown	47	968	20.6	74	0
Delpino	17	334	19.6	30	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Everett	518	304	4310	58.7	8.32	29	5.6	17	3.3	t78	29/214	90.6
Herrmann	5	4	59	80.0	11.80	0	0.0	1	20.0	23	3/22	76.3

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

MORA AND SAINTS READY FOR BATTLE

BY JIMMY SMITH

At year's end in 1989, New Orleans Saints Coach Jim Mora was smiling over his club's late-season, John Fourcade-directed surge that produced three straight wins and an unprecedented third consecutive winning season.

In January, things began to unravel. And the upturned corners of Mora's lips slowly began to move in the opposite direction.

First, quarterback Bobby Hebert, the starter until Week 13 when he was replaced by Fourcade following a 21-14 loss to the Detroit Lions, exploded.

On Jan. 3, Hebert met Mora in a 90-minute face-to-face session in which Hebert told Mora he had no intention of returning to the Saints in 1990.

Hebert became a restricted free agent on Feb. 1.

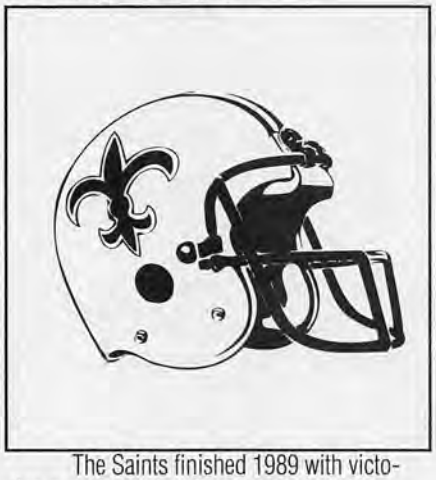
"It's time for me to move on," said Hebert, who admitted he felt as though he'd become a scapegoat for the Saints' midseason struggles. "To a certain extent, that (the benching) entered into my decision. But not all the way. Whether I'd have played the last three games or whatever, I've got to look at what's best for my family. I think I was a scapegoat, but that comes with the territory."

Later in January, Mora watched as the San Francisco 49ers, a fellow member of the NFC West, virtually steamrolled through the NFC playoffs en route to a 55-10 victory over the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXIV in the Superdome, the Saints' home field.

It's enough to give Mora, the winningest coach in Saints' history, something of a Maalox Moment, and turn that smile into a perpetual frown.

"I have anxiety every year," Mora said during the off-season. "But I definitely feel we've got a good foundation here. We need to get better. We're not good enough. We're in a tough division. We've got to beat the 49ers and Rams, two teams a lot of people feel are the two best teams in football, twice every year.

"We've got to play them four times. But I think we've got some ability, too. My optimism is influenced by the way we played at the end of last year. We beat three good football teams in games that meant a lot to them. That helped. But we've got to get better. We're not good enough yet."



The Saints finished 1989 with victories over three playoff aspirants, knocking one, the Indianapolis Colts, out of the postseason picture with a season-ending 41-6 victory in the Superdome on Christmas Eve.

Prior to that, the Saints had whipped the Buffalo Bills 22-19 in the snow at Buffalo's Rich Stadium — Fourcade's coming-out party as the Saints' quarterback — and whipped the Philadelphia Eagles 30-20 in a four-hour Monday night marathon a week later in New Orleans.

Along the way, Fourcade, a New Orleans native who played high school football at Archbishop Shaw High on the west bank of the Mississippi River, completely won the hearts of Saints' fans.

Fourcade completed 57 percent of his passes for 930 yards, 7 touchdowns and just 4 interceptions, a quarterback rating of 92.0. The Saints, in turn, rewarded Fourcade with a three-year contract that nearly quadrupled his annual salary from $100,000 to about $400,000 per year.

But Mora, a man who'd rather have a root canal without benefit of anesthesia than have an unsettled quarterback position, understandably has to wonder whether Fourcade can sustain that three-game roll and carry it over into a 16-week season in 1990.

Mora already has reconciled himself with the fact that he probably won't have Hebert to fall back upon this year should Fourcade fall on his face.

"John had three outstanding games at the end of last year," Mora said. "But other quarterbacks have had three or four good games in a row, then stunk up the joint in the next three or four games, or longer. I hope John is not that kind of quarterback.

"But I have to ask myself the question, 'What has he done the last seven or eight years?' Here's a guy who couldn't start in Arena football, couldn't start in the USFL, couldn't start in Canada. Yet you certainly can't take away what he did for us in the last three weeks of the season. He got better each game. Each game he showed steady improvement. So I'm optimistic about what kind of quarterback he can be. But that's always tempered by the fact that he's had those (other professional) opportunities in the past. I just hope he's not a streak quarterback. I think he can do it on a consistent basis. He's got a hell of an arm, he's tough as nails and he's a great competitor."

Even though Hebert hadn't signed with another club early in the off-season, Mora was making his 1990 plans with the thought that his quarterbacks were Fourcade; aging, over-the-hill Dave Wilson and 1989 developmental squad player Jason Garrett.

"The Hebert situation? Right now, I'm

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Late Fee on Purchases and Cash Advances	$10
Cash Advance Transaction Fee	At a financial institution, 2% of amount of advance but not less than $2 or more than $10. At an Automated Teller Machine, $1.75.

The information about the costs of the card described in this application is accurate as of April 1990. This information may have changed after that date. To find out what may have changed, write to us at P.O. Box 6116, Sioux Falls, SD 57117-6116.

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not counting on him," Mora said.

It's not as if the 1989 Saints' offense was totally anemic. On the contrary.

The Saints ranked 11th in the NFL in total offense in 1989, ahead of six of the league's 10 postseason participants — Cleveland (16th), Denver (15th), Minnesota (14th), the Giants (20th), Philadelphia (12th) and Pittsburgh (28th).

While Hebert directed the team for 13 games, completing a season-record 63 percent of his passes, his midseason slump left him with 15 touchdown passes and 15 interceptions.

But the Saints were buoyed by the season enjoyed by tailback Dalton Hilliard.

Hilliard led the National Football Conference in total yardage, rushing for 1,262 and catching 52 passes for 514 yards. Hilliard let the Saints in scoring with 18 touchdowns, the first time since 1982 that place-kicker Morten Andersen didn't pace the Saints in that department.

Hilliard's versatility earned him a first-ever Pro Bowl appearance.

In 1990, the Saints offense should be made stronger by the return of two-time Pro Bowler Rueben Mayes. Mayes missed the entire 1989 season after Achilles tendon augmentation surgery on his right Achilles.

The Saints led the NFL in possession time average, holding the ball for 33:43 per game in 1989.

Defensively, New Orleans led the league in rushing defense, holding its opponents to 83 yards per game, well below the NFL average of 115.3 yards.

That dominance was achieved in part by the play of an aging defensive line, led by nose tackle Jim Wilks and defensive ends Frank Warren and Jumpy Geathers, backed up by of linebackers Rickey Jackson, Sam Mills, Vaughan Johnson and Pat Swilling.

Johnson and Swilling made their first-ever Pro Bowl appearances following the 1989 season. Geathers, however, went to Washington as a Plan B Free Agent. Second-year player Wayne Martin will open the season at right defensive end.

But the weak-link in the New Orleans defense was its pass coverage. The Saints ranked 26th in the NFL, second-to-last. New Orleans allowed 241.3 yards per game in the air and gave up 23 passing touchdowns.

Part of the problem was the fact that New Orleans' two cornerbacks, Robert Massey and Toi Cook, were playing their first seasons as starters. Massey was a rookie, Cook a third-year veteran converted from free safety.

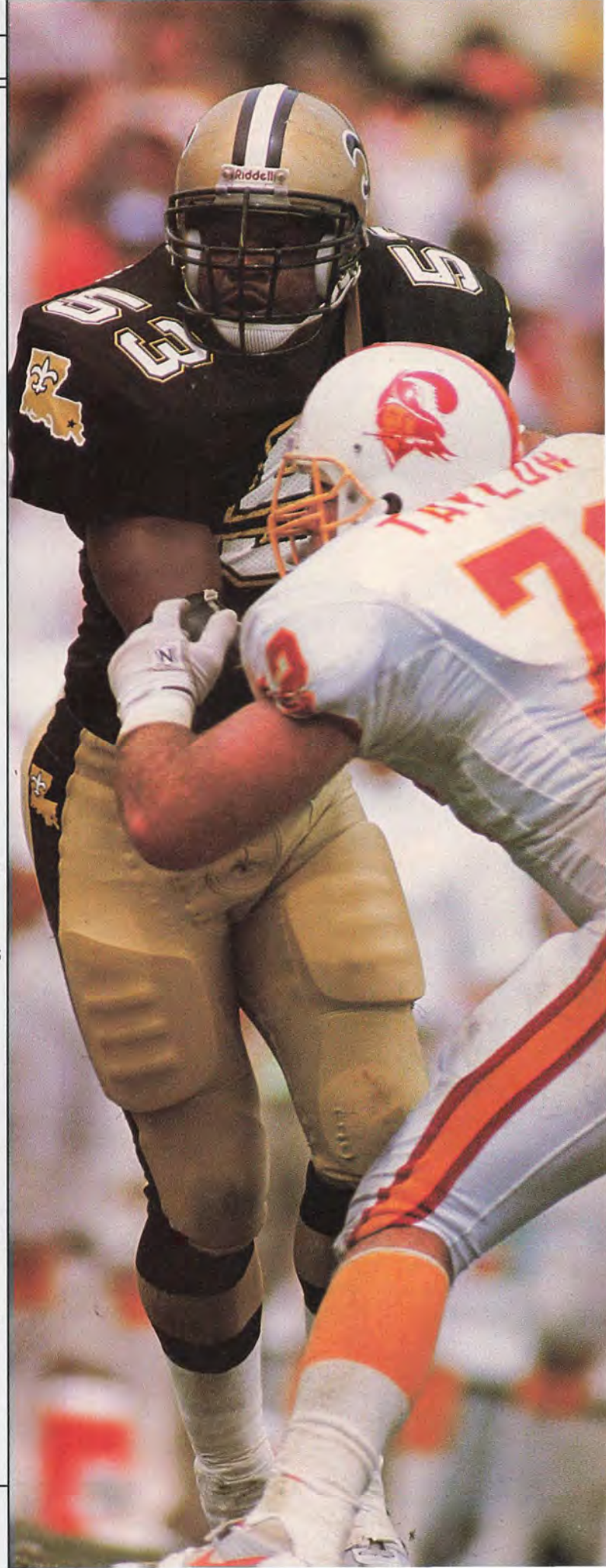
Added to the problem was free safety Dave Waymer, often looked to to provide some deep help but susceptible to biting on play-fakes which often left Massey and Cook with no aid in center field.

Waymer was left unprotected during the Plan B period and was signed by the San Francisco 49ers, so it's likely that Brett Maxie, who started at free safety before 1989, will return to that slot in 1990.

Yet all is not rosy defensively for the Saints. They're getting old. And it has Mora somewhat worried.

"I'm concerned about our depth at linebacker, too," Mora said. "We protected five linebackers in Plan B, but Rickey is 32 years old, Sam is 31. We've got to find some good young linebackers. And some good young defensive linemen, too. Jimmy Wilks will be 32, Frank Warren will be 30. The age factor down the road really has me concerned in those two positions.

"Offensively, I think we'll be OK, especially when we get Rueben back. We're have two real good running backs. Defensively, I have some concerns. We've got to find somebody in that free safety spot. We've got five good young cornerbacks so I don't feel too bad about



Vaughan Johnson beefs up a rugged Saints linebacker corps.
ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

Dalton Hilliard keys Saints' offense. ALLEN DEAN STEELE

that position. Our problems in the secondary last year were a combination of a lot of things — technique breakdowns, physical breakdowns. A lot of times, the other team just called the right play at the right time. And you have to expect to get beat sometimes. Giving up the big play, though, was definitely our Achilles heel. But I think we'll be more steady, and play a lot better next year."

Yet while Mora's enthusiasm about his quarterback is tempered by Fourcade's NFL inexperience, Mora's enthusiasm about the Saints being contenders in 1990 is tempered by the fact that they are staring up at the 49ers and Rams ahead of them in the NFC West.

Yet, aside from the 49ers, no team in the NFL has a better regular-season record over the last three years than the New Orleans Saints.

Problem for Mora is, New Orleans has just one postseason appearance to show for that.

"We've had three straight winning seasons," Mora said, "yet success in the National Football League is predicated on your ability to get to the playoffs. You can be an 8-8 team, but if you get into the playoffs, you're a success that year. If you go 10-6 and miss the playoffs (as the Saints did in 1988), then you're not a success.

"Let's face it, we're not a great football team in any area. You look down the list of the top players at every position in the NFL, and you know, you don't see a lot of Saints players. We had three guys make the Pro Bowl last year, none of them as starters. Look at the All-Pro teams. We didn't have anybody on the first teams. We've got good players, but we need more impact-type players."

Mora's correct. Look down the Saints' roster and you don't see any Joe Montanas, Roger Craigs, Jerry Rices, John Taylors, Jim Everetts or Flipper Andersons.

"Yet, I'm not at all unhappy with my football team," Mora said. "Still, I see us going 10-6 and 9-7 the last two years and not making the playoffs. We've got to find a way to beat those teams. We've got to find a way to beat the 49ers. We've got to find a way of beating the Rams. I'm not content with not making the playoffs."

What happened over the course of the last three games last year, though, told Mora there was nothing wrong with the approach the Saints were taking philosophically.

During a midseason stretch which saw the New Orleans offense struggle dramatically, losing critical games to the Niners and Rams which virtually eliminated the Saints from playoff contention, New Orleans' controlled, grind-it-out offensive system came in for a great deal of criticism.

"We've got a good system and those last three wins showed me we're doing things the right way," Mora said. "We're playing close to our potential most of the time. We've got good people in this organization and we're doing what it takes to win. Remember, for 19 or 20 years, they went without a winning season. We've had three.

"But you've got to continually rebuild your football team. The days of the Steelers, when you have the same team for a decade and dominate, are over. If you don't constantly rebuild, retool, you run into trouble.

"Four years ago when we came in here we didn't have any running backs, we had one receiver and our offensive line was getting old. I wasn't real pleased with our secondary as a whole. Today, we've turned over almost our entire receiving corps and our secondary. We've got all new running backs. But we're still in the process of building. You've got to continually have some turnover. That means sometimes letting older, more experienced players go and keeping younger ones."

And, perhaps, struggling to keep pace, in the Saints' case, with the Rams and 49ers.

"That doesn't intimidate me," Mora said. "But I know this — we're in a division with the best teams in football. The Niners dominated the National Football League last year. They totally annihilated three fine football teams in the playoffs. That doesn't scare me.

"It just makes me more fired up to find a way to beat them. They're good. They're legit good."

Good enough to keep Mora's late 1989 smile on the downturn toward a 1990 frown.❑

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
89	**Alphin**, Gerald	WR	6-3	220	1	Kansas State
7	**Andersen**, Morten	K	6-2	221	9	Michigan State
28	**Atkins**, Gene	SS	6-1	200	4	Florida A&M
6	**Barnhardt**, Tommy	P	6-2	207	4	North Carolina
85	**Brenner**, Hoby	TE	6-5	245	10	USC
67	**Brock**, Stan	T	6-6	292	11	Colorado
41	**Cook**, Toi	CB	5-11	188	4	Stanford
71	**Cooper**, Richard	T	6-4	285	1	Tennessee
79	**Derby**, Glenn	T	6-6	290	2	Wisconsin
72	**Dombrowski**, Jim	T	6-5	298	5	Virginia
63	**Edelman**, Brad	G	6-6	270	9	Missouri
52	**Forde**, Brian	LB	6-3	225	3	Washington State
11	**Fourcade**, John	QB	6-1	215	4	Mississippi
12	**Garrett**, Jason	QB	6-0	196	1	Princeton
91	**Griffin**, Willie	NT	6-3	280	1	Nebraska
74	**Haverdink**, Kevin	T	6-5	285	2	Western Michigan
3	**Hebert**, Bobby	QB	6-4	215	6	Northwestern Louisiana
34	**Heyward**, Craig	FB	5-11	260	3	Pittsburgh
61	**Hilgenberg**, Joel	C-G	6-2	252	7	Iowa
87	**Hill**, Lonzell	WR	5-11	189	4	Washington
21	**Hilliard**, Dalton	RB	5-8	204	5	LSU
57	**Jackson**, Rickey	LB	6-2	243	10	Pittsburgh
53	**Johnson**, Vaughan	LB	6-3	235	5	North Carolina State
86	**Jones**, Mike	WR	5-11	180	7	Tennessee State
23	**Jordan**, Buford	FB	6-0	223	5	McNeese State
60	**Korte**, Steve	C	6-2	271	8	Arkansas

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
59	**Landry**, Doug	LB	6-2	225	1	Louisiana Tech
24	**Mack**, Milton	CB	5-11	182	4	Alcorn State
84	**Martin**, Eric	WR	6-1	207	6	LSU
93	**Martin**, Wayne	DE	6-5	275	2	Arkansas
40	**Massey**, Robert	CB	5-10	182	2	North Carolina Central
39	**Maxie**, Brett	S	6-2	194	6	Texas Southern
36	**Mayes**, Rueben	RB	5-11	200	4	Washington State
51	**Mills**, Sam	LB	5-9	225	5	Montclair State
35	**Morse**, Bobby	FB	5-10	213	3	Michigan State
38	**Nicholson**, Calvin	CB	5-9	183	1	Oregon State
80	**Perriman**, Brett	WR	5-9	180	3	Miami (FL)
43	**Phillips**, Kim	CB	5-9	188	2	North Texas
55	**Simien**, Tracy	LB	6-1	245	1	Texas Christian
83	**Scales**, Greg	TE	6-4	253	3	Wake Forest
96	**Simmons**, Michael	DE	6-4	269	1	Mississippi State
56	**Swilling**, Pat	LB	6-3	242	5	Georgia Tech
37	**Thompson**, Bennie	SS	6-0	200	1	Grambling
82	**Tice**, John	TE	6-5	249	8	Maryland
54	**Toles**, Alvin	LB	6-1	234	5	Tennessee
65	**Trapilo**, Steve	G	6-5	281	4	Boston College
88	**Turner**, Floyd	WR	5-11	188	2	Northwestern Louisiana
73	**Warren**, Frank	DE	6-4	285	10	Auburn
50	**Wheeler**, Todd	C	6-4	269	1	Georgia
94	**Wilks**, Jim	NT	6-5	275	10	San Diego State
18	**Wilson**, Dave	QB	6-3	206	9	Illinois
69	**Woods**, Tony	DE	6-4	274	2	Oklahoma

SAINTS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Renaldo **TURNBULL** *DE-OLB*	6-4, 248	**West Virginia**	Sacked opposing quarterbacks 21 times during his career . . . One of the fastest linebackers in the country with 4.62 speed in the 40 . . . Recorded 60 tackles (43 solos) with 8 sacks and 19 stops for 111 yards in losses.
2	Vince **BUCK** *CB-RS*	6-1, 195	**Central State (OH)**	Holder of the school's all-time record with 30 interceptions . . . Recorded 32 tackles (21 solos) with 1 sack and 2 stops for minus 8 yards . . . Deflected 13 passes and picked off 3 others for 49 yards in returns with 1 TD . . . Had 12 kickoff returns for 258 yards (21.5 avg.) . . . Had 45 punt returns for 815 yards (18.1 avg.) and 3 TDs.
3	Joel **SMEENGE** *DE-LB*	6-5, 245	**Western Michigan**	Second player in Mid-American Conference history to earn first team All-Conference honors three straight years . . . Broke his own season mark with 23 tackles for 115 yards in losses . . . Recorded 50 tackles (37 solos) with 14 sacks.
4	Demond **WINSTON** *ILB*	6-2, 239	**Vanderbilt**	All-American honorable mention . . . All-Southeastern Conference . . . Led the team with 169 tackles (70 solos), 5 sacks and 8 tackles for 51 yards in losses . . . Caused 3 fumbles.
5	Charles **ARBUCKLE** *TE*	6-2, 238	**UCLA**	Recently timed at 4.61 in the 40 . . . Led the Bruins with 33 receptions for 309 yards (9.4 avg.) and 1 TD in 1989 . . . Despite missing four full games and most of the fifth with strained knee ligaments in 1988, he still managed to catch 17 passes for 259 yards (15.2 avg.) and 2 TDs.
6	Mike **BUCK** *QB*	6-3, 218	**Maine**	Has rewritten 27 of the Black Bears' passing records, including the school's all-time records for completions (647), attempts (1,154), TDs (69) and yards (8,844) . . . Holds the Yankee Conference career records for passing yards (8,844) and total offense (8,785).
6	James **WILLIAMS** *ILB*	6-0, 223	**Mississippi State**	Holds the school's all-time record with 448 tackles . . . Led the team in tackles for the second straight year with 157 stops (95 solos) . . . Registered 1 sack and 7 tackles for minus 15 yards.
7	Scott **HOUGH** *OT*	6-5, 282	**Maine**	The finest lineman to ever perform at the school . . . Recently timed at 4.97 in the 40 . . . Difficult to knock off his feet and an outstanding pass protector.
8	Gerry **GDOWSKI** *QB*	6-0, 192	**Nebraska**	Had a banner senior campaign, breaking or tying 11 school records in his first year as a full-time starter . . . All-Big 8 Conference, sharing Offensive Player-of-the-Year honors.
8	Derrick **CARR** *DL*	6-6, 265	**Bowling Green**	Member of school's 1,000-pound club in the weight room (1,025 pounds) . . . Bench presses 420 pounds, leg sled 605 pounds . . . Had 69 total tackles in 1988.
9	Broderick **GRAVES** *RB*	6-0, 195	**Winston-Salem State**	All-CIAA running back in both 1988 and 1989 . . . CIAA 's leading rusher in 1988 . . . Rushed for 1,039 yards in 1989.
9	Lonnie **BROCKMAN** *ILB*	6-4, 231	**West Virginia**	Recently timed at 4.78 in the 40 . . . Started every game in 1989, recording a career high 64 tackles (34 solos) with 5 sacks and 11 stops for 58 yards in losses . . . Also deflected 4 passes.
10	Gary **COOPER** *WR*	6-2, 195	**Clemson**	One of only two Tiger players to letter in both football and basketball . . . Recently timed at 4.46 in the 40 . . . Second on the school's career list, averaging 20.2 yards per catch.
10	Ernest **SPEARS** *SS-CB*	5-11, 185	**Southern California**	Hard-hitting tackler who does an excellent job in run support . . . Started every game recording 65 tackles (38 solos) in 1989 . . . Deflected 9 passes and picked off 2 others.
11	Webbie **BURNETT** *NG*	6-2, 277	**Western Kentucky**	Strong, aggressive player who has added over 45 pounds to his frame since his freshman campaign . . . Recorded 48 tackles (31 solos) with 5.5 sacks and 6 stops for 31 yards in losses.
12	Chris **PORT** *OT*	6-6, 290	**Duke**	Outstanding pass blocker . . . Recently timed at 5.47 in the 40 . . . All-Atlantic Coast Conference choice . . . Received over a 90% grade for blocking consistency in every game . . . Allowed only one sack.

SAINTS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	SAINTS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	304	293
Rushing	108	79
Passing	167	198
Penalty	29	16
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	89/207	82/216
4th Down: Made/Atts.	5/10	8/17
TOTAL NET YARDS	5328	5186
Avg. Per Game	333.0	324.1
Total Plays	999	997
Avg. Per Play	5.3	5.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	1948	1326
Avg. Per Game	121.8	82.9
Total Rushes	502	373
NET YARDS PASSING	3380	3860
Avg. Per Game	211.3	241.3
Tackled/Yards Lost	36/271	47/362
Gross Yards	3651	4222
Attempts/Completions	461/284	577/320
Pct. of Completions	61.6	55.5
Had Intercepted	19	21
PUNTS/AVERAGE	71/39.1	75/39.4
NET PUNTING AVG.	34.2	33.2
PENALTIES/YARDS	90/676	105/850
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	28/12	35/18
TOUCHDOWNS	46	35
Rushing	19	10
Passing	23	23
Returns	4	2

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
SAINTS	105	123	60	98	0	386
OPP. TOTAL	27	96	89	86	3	301

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Andersen	0-0	7-8	10-11	3-6	0-4	20-29

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Hilliard	344	1262	3.7	40	13
Heyward	49	183	3.7	15	1
Jordan	38	179	4.7	32	3

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
E. Martin	68	1090	16.0	t53	8
Hilliard	52	514	9.9	t54	5
Hill	48	636	13.3	46	4
Brenner	34	398	11.7	t30	4
Turner	22	279	12.7	t54	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Waymer	6	66	11.0	42	0
Massey	5	26	5.2	22	0
Cook	3	81	27.0	t63	1

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Barnhardt	55	2179	39.6	4	17	56	0
Winslow	16	595	37.2	1	4	50	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Harris	27	7	196	7.3	20	0
Morse	10	1	29	2.9	16	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Harris	19	378	19.9	39	0
Atkins	12	245	20.4	32	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Hebert	353	222	2686	62.9	7.61	15	4.2	15	4.2	t54	22/171	82.7
Fourcade	107	61	930	57.0	8.69	7	6.5	4	3.7	t54	13/96	92.0

ATLANTA FALCONS

GLANVILLE COMES TO TOWN

BY ED SHEARER

Jerry Glanville insisted he wasn't going to watch any film of the 1989 Atlanta Falcons.

Cynics would laud it as an intelligent decision by the flamboyant new coach who parted company with Houston after steering the Oilers to the playoffs three times in four years.

Glanville's optimistic outlook undoubtedly would have waned rather rapidly watching a team stumble through a 3-13 season, including seven losses in a row at the end.

A former assistant in Atlanta, Glanville said he didn't want to form opinions about personnel based on how they performed in the past.

He wants the new staff to make its decisions based on how the players fit in to his attack brand of football, not on what they did in some other system for some other coach.

"Living on the edge is exciting," Glanville says. "We have a chance to have attack football. We're going to attack you on both sides.

"Our staff will know a lot of football. Knowing a lot of football isn't enough. We have to find out what our players can do and hone in on what our players do best."

Historically, what the Falcons have done best is lose.

They have finished in the National Conference West cellar three years in a row and six times in the last seven. The Falcons have won only 23 percent of their games in the last three seasons — the league's worst record (11-36) for that span.

Granted, the NFC West may be the toughest division in the league. San Francisco has won two Super Bowls in succession, the Los Angeles Rams are perennial playoff contenders and the New Orleans Saints have steadily pulled away from the Falcons in what used to be a two-team fight to avoid the cellar.

Glanville is promising an exciting brand of football in this Silver Anniversary season for a franchise that has had only five winning seasons and one divisional championship (1980) in 24 years.

"We will hustle," he said. "We will hit. We'll put pride in every seat in what they watch."

One of his tasks will be to lure more fans to excite.

The Falcons averaged slightly more than 40,000 fans in the 58,850-seat Atlanta-

Fulton County Stadium last fall. The team hasn't averaged 50,000 since 1981.

Only 7,792 — smallest crowd in club history — showed up for last year's finale against the Detroit Lions on Christmas Eve.

"After the season we had, I was just glad to get out of Atlanta," running back John Settle said.

"It was the worst year that I've ever been involved in," said Mike Kenn, a five-time Pro Bowl offensive tackle.

The cloud of gloom that was the 1989 season didn't derive alone from the happenings on the field.

A team that had mourned the cocaine-related death of defensive back David Croudip during the 1988 season endured two more memorial services for teammates in 1989.

Tackle Ralph Norwood, a promising rookie from LSU, was killed when his car ran off a road, down an embankment and hit a tree while he was returning home from a Thanksgiving party. Authorities said he apparently fell asleep at the wheel.

Three weeks later, tight end Brad Beckman, a second-year free agent from Nebraska-Omaha, was killed on an icy interstate. Beckman was sitting in a car that had been involved in a minor accident when a tractor-trailer rig slammed into it, killing him instantly.

"It's like a black cloud hanging over this team and it won't go away," team president Rankin Smith Jr. said.

"When you're out of the race before even the midway point of the season, it almost becomes an insurmountable task," Kenn said, "Last year, it was even more absurd when you throw in the deaths of two players."

Rumors were rampant that Marion Campbell, in his second stint at the Atlanta helm, would be fired at the end of the season.

Lack of success on the field, the death of Norwood and rumors that Campbell was on his way out prompted the the coach to announce his immediate resignation with four games remaining in the season.

Jim Hanifan, former coach of the St. Louis Cardinals, took over as interim coach, being told up front that he wouldn't be considered for the permanent job.

The Falcons played with a little more flair under Hanifan, but the results weren't any different — four losses in a row.

Owner Rankin Smith Sr. had threatened for several years to move his team to Jacksonville if it was forced to continue playing in Atlanta Stadium.

Radio talk shows were filled with callers who thought it was a good idea. Let the Birds go South. Perhaps a real pro team would take their place.

A move isn't in the cards now.

The owner got his wish. Ground has been broken on a 72,000-seat Georgia Dome

John Settle sparks Falcon running game. ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

in the downtown area adjacent to the World Congress Center and the Omni, home of pro basketball's Atlanta Hawks. It is expected to be ready for the 1992 season.

Smith Sr. had to make some moves to bring back the support of fans, who stayed away from games in droves.

Hiring Glanville was the move he made, recalling that Jerry was in on the creation of the "Grits Blitz" defense of the late 70s and early 80s that had local fans excited.

"We're certainly looking for great things from him," Smith Sr. said. "He wanted to come back here where he thought he belonged."

"I feel like I'm coming home," Glanville said at the news conference announcing his return.

The announcement was made on Jan. 14, the same day Denver and San Francisco wrapped up conference titles to earn a berth in Super Bowl XXIV.

Glanville quickly moved to fill his coaching staff, bringing in two of his Houston aides to serve as assistant head coaches — Ray Sherman for offense and Doug Shively for defense.

The Falcons are expected to go to the run-and-shoot offense Glanville used with the Oilers. It could be an offense that fits quarterback Chris Miller like a glove.

If it doesn't, the team has a quarterback under contract who has played in that system before — Gilbert Renfroe, first black quarterback in club history.

After playing college ball at Tennessee State, he spent the last four seasons in the Canadian League. In 59 games, he completed 599 of 1,147 passes for 8,185 yards and 43 touchdowns. He had 50 passes land in enemy hands.

Miller is an outstanding athlete, having chosen football over baseball when he came out of Oregon as the Falcons' first-round choice in the 1987 draft.

A contract dispute wasn't settled until late in his rookie season, when he saw action only in three games.

Injuries kept him out of three games in 1988, but last year turned into a statistical success for Miller.

He passed for 3,459 yards and 16 touchdowns, throwing only 10 interceptions in 15 starts for the lowest interception percentage in the NFL.

It was the third-best yardage figure in club history, surpassed only by Steve Bartkowski in 1981 with 3,830 yards and 1980 with 3,544 yards.

Kenn has said he believes Miller is the best young quarterback to come into the NFL since Dan Marino showed up in Miami.

There should be plenty of new faces in the Falcons' camp this summer.

The team left 18 players on the unprotected list, with the first to depart as a Plan B free agent being tight end Ron Heller, who signed with Seattle.

Two other tight ends also were unprotected — Gary Wilkins and Alex Higdon, the Ohio State product who came into camp two years ago amid plenty of fanfare but saw action in only three games before missing the next two seasons with a knee injury.

The run-and-shoot puts the premium on wide receivers, not tight ends.

The Falcons' first Plan B signee was Ronnie Lee of Miami, projected to be a starting tackle.

The offensive line was riddled with injuries throughout the season. It is one area in which the Falcons hope to improve, either through the draft or by signing free agents. Kenn, entering his 13th season, and guard Bill Fralic, a four-time Pro Bowler, are the leaders up front.

Atlanta also has to shore up a porous defense that ranked last among the 28 NFL teams last year.

It allowed a league-high 2,471 yards on the ground and there wasn't much of a pass rush, either, producing only 31 sacks to rank 25th in that category.

One thing a futile past does for an NFL team is give it a chance for a better future via the draft.

The Falcons had three of the first 27 picks in the 1990 draft, including the No. 1 selection.

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
FA	**Adams**, Scott	T	6-5	275	1	Georgia
FA	**Adleta**, John	NT	6-4	280	1	North Carolina State
FA	**Barrows**, Scott	G-C	6-3	280	5	West Virginia
65	**Bingham**, Guy	C-G	6-3	260	11	Montana
70	**Bowick**, Tony	NT	6-2	265	2	UT-Chattanooga
93	**Bruce**, Aundray	LB	6-5	248	3	Auburn
77	**Bryan**, Rick	DE	6-4	265	7	Oklahoma
23	**Butler**, Bobby	CB	5-11	175	10	Florida State
25	**Case**, Scott	CB	6-0	178	7	Oklahoma
75	**Casillas**, Tony	NT	6-3	280	5	Oklahoma
74	**Clayton**, Stan	G	6-3	265	3	Penn State
85	**Collins**, Shawn	WR	6-2	207	2	Northern Arizona
51	**Cotton**, Marcus	LB	6-3	237	3	Southern Cal
5	**Davis**, Greg	K	5-11	197	4	Citadel
22	**Dimry**, Charles	CB	6-0	175	3	Nevada-Las Vegas
86	**Dixon**, Floyd	WR	5-9	170	5	Stephen F. Austin
FA	**Dixon**, Titus	WR	5-6	152	1	Troy State
64	**Dukes**, Jamie	G	6-1	285	5	Florida State
79	**Fralic**, Bill	G	6-5	280	6	Pittsburgh
17	**Fulhage**, Scott	P	5-10	193	4	Kansas State
76	**Gann**, Mike	DE	6-5	270	6	Notre Dame
41	**Gordon**, Tim	S	6-0	188	4	Tulsa
99	**Green**, Tim	LB	6-2	245	5	Syracuse
FA	**Harris**, Greg	WR	5-9	157	1	Troy State
81	**Haynes**, Michael	WR	6-0	180	3	Northern Arizona
69	**Hoover**, Houston	T-G	6-2	290	3	Jackson State
68	**Hunter**, John	T	6-8	296	2	Brigham Young
38	**Jones**, Keith	RB	6-1	210	2	Illinois
40	**Jordan**, Brian	S	5-11	202	2	Richmond
78	**Kenn**, Mike	T	6-7	277	13	Michigan
FA	**Kuipers**, Jason	C	6-2	275	1	Florida State
33	**Lang**, Gene	RB	5-10	206	7	Louisiana State
71	**Lee**, Ronnie	T	6-3	277	12	Baylor
7	**Millen**, Hugh	QB	6-5	216	3	Washington
12	**Miller**, Chris	QB	6-2	200	4	Oregon
FA	**Mitchell**, Roland	CB	5-11	180	3	Texas Tech
36	**Paterra**, Greg	RB	5-11	211	2	Slippery Rock
59	**Rade**, John	LB	6-1	240	8	Boise State
95	**Reid**, Michael	LB	6-2	235	4	Wisconsin
14	**Renfroe**, Gilbert	QB	6-1	195	1	Tennessee State
56	**Ruether**, Mike	C	6-4	275	5	Texas
45	**Sadowski**, Troy	TE	6-5	243	1	Georgia
21	**Sanders**, Deion	CB	6-0	187	2	Florida State
44	**Settle**, John	RB	5-9	210	4	Appalachian
37	**Shelley**, Elbert	S	5-11	180	4	Arkansas State
19	**Simien**, Kevin	WR	6-4	202	1	Fort Hays State
15	**Singer**, Paul	QB	6-3	193	1	Western Illinois
53	**Thaxton**, Galand	LB	6-1	242	2	Wyoming
72	**Thomas**, Ben	DE	6-3	275	5	Auburn
89	**Thomas**, George	WR	5-9	169	2	Nevada-Las Vegas
56	**Tuggle**, Jessie	LB	5-11	230	4	Valdosta State
FA	**Utt**, Ben	G	6-6	293	9	Georgia Tech

FALCONS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Steve **BROUSSARD** *TB*	5-6, 201	**Washington State**	Sensational open field runner . . . Fine receiver coming out of the backfield . . . Recently timed at 4.45 in the 40 . . . Ranks second on the school's all-time rushing list with 3,044 yards . . . Holds the Cougar career marks with 41 total TDs and 33 rushing scores . . . First team All-Pac-10 Conference pick in 1989 . . . Set school season records with 13 TDs rushing and 104 points scored . . . Carried 260 times for 1,237 yards (4.8 avg.).
2	Darion **CONNER** *ILB*	6-3, 256	**Jackson State**	Awesome physical specimen with tremendous strength . . . Southwestern Athletic Conference Defensive Player-of-the-Year . . . Had an outstanding senior campaign, recording a career high 130 tackles (90 solos) with 12.5 sacks and 15 stops for 136 yards in losses.
3	Oliver **BARNETT** *DT*	6-3, 285	**Kentucky**	Shattered the school combined weight lifting record (squat, bench, clean) with 1,655 pounds . . . Bench presses 420 pounds . . . Holds the school all-time record with 27 QB sacks . . . Recorded 86 tackles (68 solos) with 7 sacks and 14 stops for 50 yards in losses . . . Caused a pair of fumbles and deflected 4 passes.
5	Reggie **REDDING** *OG*	6-4, 281	**Cal State-Fullerton**	Excellent trap blocker . . . Has made great strides as a pass protector . . . Recently timed at 5.18 in the 40 . . . All-Big West Conference in 1989 . . . Graded over 85% for blocking consistency in eight games.
6	Mike **PRINGLE** *HB*	5-8, 186	**Cal State-Fullerton**	Multidimensional athlete who is a threat to score whether carrying, catching or returning the ball . . . Recently timed at 4.49 in the 40 . . . Came to the Titans after spending his first two years at Washington State . . . Despite playing in only 19 games for the Titans, tied the school career record with 19 rushing TDs . . . All-Big West Conference and Offensive Player-of-the-Year in 1989 . . . Led the nation with 2,690 all-purpose yards, the second best total in NCAA history, surpassed only by Oklahoma State's Barry Sanders . . . Set another Big West season mark by averaging 157.0 yards per game on the ground . . . Set school season records for carries (296), rushing touchdowns (16), total TDs (19) and points (116) . . . Ran for 1,727 yards, just 62 yards shy of Titan season record . . . Second in the country in rushing with a 157.0 yard game average.
8	Tory **EPPS** *NG*	6-1, 280	**Memphis State**	Able to bench press over 400 pounds . . . Timed at 5.02 in the 40 . . . Dominating run stopper who gets great penetration . . . Finished with 67 tackles (44 solos), 2 sacks and 8 stops for 22 yards in losses.
9	Darrell **JORDAN** *ILB*	6-3, 243	**Northern Arizona**	All-American and All-Big Sky Conference . . . Led the team with a career high 160 tackles (84 solos), 2 sacks and 3 stops for minus 14 yards . . . Caused 6 fumbles and recovered 2 others.
10	Donnie **SALUM** *ILB*	6-1, 236	**Arizona**	Led team in total tackles with 113 . . . Attended Mesa CC in '85 and '86, then transferred to Portland State for spring ball '87 . . . Transferred to Arizona in fall 1987 and did not play . . . Reported for football in spring 1988.
11	Chris **ELLISON** *FS*	5-11, 198	**Houston**	Tremendous hitter who easily handles the runners coming out of the backfield . . . Timed at 4.79 in the 40 . . . Ranked fourth on the team in 1989 with 81 tackles (57 solos), 2 sacks and 5 stops for minus 22 yards . . . Recovered 2 fumbles and deflected a pass . . . Second on the team with 6 interceptions.
12	Shawn **McCARTHY** *P-QB*	6-7, 227	**Purdue**	Holds the school's all-time records for punts (273), yards and average (41.1) . . . All-Big 10 Conference . . . Ranked fourth in the nation and led the conference with 69 punts for 3,075 yards, setting a school season record with a 44.6 yard average in 1989.

FALCONS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	FALCONS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	261	336
Rushing	75	156
Passing	173	163
Penalty	13	17
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	67/206	95/211
4th Down: Made/Atts.	6/17	7/9
TOTAL NET YARDS	4669	6025
Avg. Per Game	291.8	376.6
Total Plays	947	1040
Avg. Per Play	4.9	5.8
NET YARDS RUSHING	1155	2471
Avg. Per Game	72.2	154.4
Total Rushes	318	572
NET YARDS PASSING	3514	3554
Avg. Per Game	219.6	222.1
Tackled/Yards Lost	51/389	31/183
Gross Yards	3903	3737
Attempts/Completions	578/312	437/259
Pct. of Completions	54.0	59.3
Had Intercepted	12	20
PUNTS/AVERAGE	85/40.8	56/41.8
NET PUNTING AVG.	33.3	34.3
PENALTIES/YARDS	82/671	79/682
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	26/11	26/12
TOUCHDOWNS	30	49
Rushing	11	26
Passing	17	19
Returns	2	4

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
FALCONS	43	100	85	51	0	279
OPP. TOTAL	97	118	123	99	0	437

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
McFadden	1-1	4-4	6-7	2-6	2-2	15-20
Davis	0-0	3-3	2-3	2-5	0-0	7-11

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Settle	179	689	3.8	20	3
Jones	52	202	3.9	19	6
Lang	47	176	3.7	22	1

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Collins	58	862	14.9	47	3
Jones	41	396	9.7	46	0
Haynes	40	681	17.0	t72	4
Lang	39	436	11.2	32	1
Settle	39	316	8.1	33	2

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Sanders	5	52	10.4	22	0
Gordon	4	60	15.0	34	0
Cooper	4	54	13.5	38	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Fulhage	84	3472	41.3	9	24	65	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Sanders	28	7	307	11.0	t68	1
Jordan	4	0	34	8.5	15	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Sanders	35	725	20.7	72	0
Jones	23	440	19.1	29	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Miller	526	280	3459	53.2	6.58	16	3.0	10	1.9	t72	41/318	76.1
Millen	50	31	432	62.0	8.64	1	2.0	2	4.0	47	10/71	79.8

They were courting Alabama All-American linebacker Keith McCants, a college junior who bypassed his final season of eligibility to test the pro market. He could help solve the pass rush problem.

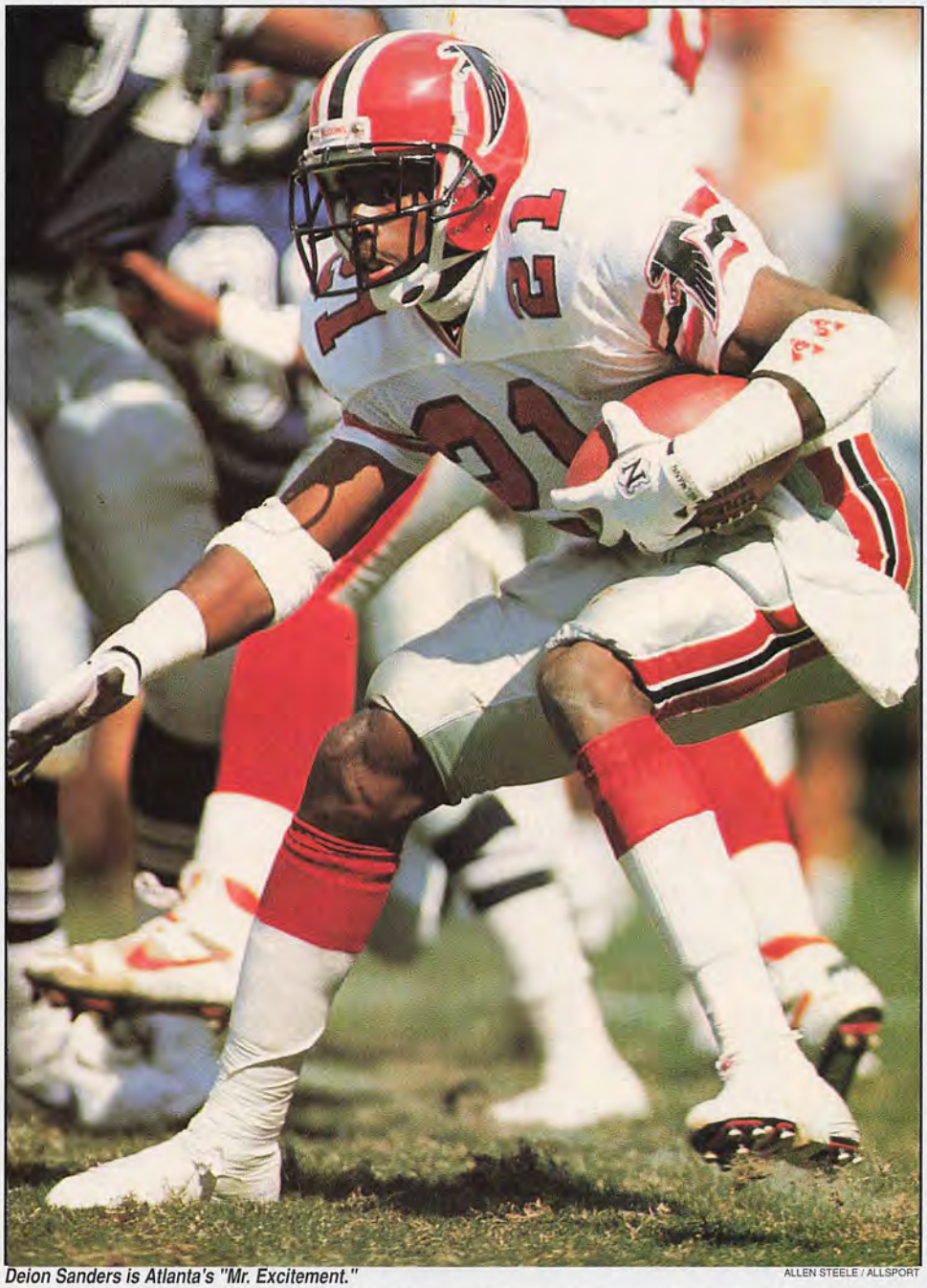
Nose tackle Tony Casillas came off a 152-tackle season, best among the down linemen, but he was asking to be traded, saying he no longer wanted to play with this organization.

Linebacker Jessie Tuggle ranks as the hardest hitter on the team. He also led the team in tackles last year with 183.

School is still out on the bookend linebackers signed in 1988 — Aundray Bruce of Auburn and Marcus Cotton of Southern Cal.

Cotton led the Falcons in sacks with nine, but he had only one start. Bruce started 13 games, but landed in Campbell's doghouse with a lack of production during one stretch when he averaged just over one tackle a game on running plays.

Last year's No. 1 pick, Deion Sanders of Florida State, broke in with a punt return for a touchdown in his first game. It was his only score of the season, but he did lead the team in punt returns with 307 yards and kickoff returns with 725.



Deion Sanders is Atlanta's "Mr. Excitement." ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

He also created what little excitement the fans had with his flamboyant style on and off the field.

On the field he waved his arms after big plays, eliciting roars from the crowd. Off the field he wore flashy clothes and plenty of gold — on his fingers and around his neck.

Sanders talked at the end of the season as if he might concentrate on his baseball career and forget football. The baseball lockout and word that the New York Yankees weren't planning to bring him up immediately made another NFL season likely for Sanders — until he re-signed with the Yankees in March.

Sanders had five interceptions to lead all rookies in that category last year. His speed should help his development into an outstanding cornerback – if he plays football.

The Falcons also had the leading receiver among rookies last year, Shawn Collins, half of the team's Northern Arizona receiving connection.

Collins caught 58 passes for 862 yards and three touchdowns and Michael Haynes, a second-year player from the same school, had 40 receptions for 396 yards.

Collins, Haynes, and four-year veteran Floyd Dixon (25 catches, 357 yards) give Glanville a good starting point for the receiving end of his run-and-shoot attack.

Settle, who rushed for 1,024 yards two years ago, fell off to 689 last year, but his attempts dropped from 232 to 179 as the Falcons played catch-up most of the year.

Atlanta also hopes to have defensive end Rick Bryan, out with a neck injury last year, and cornerback Scott Case, a Pro Bowler in 1988 who struggled with a foot ailment most of last year.

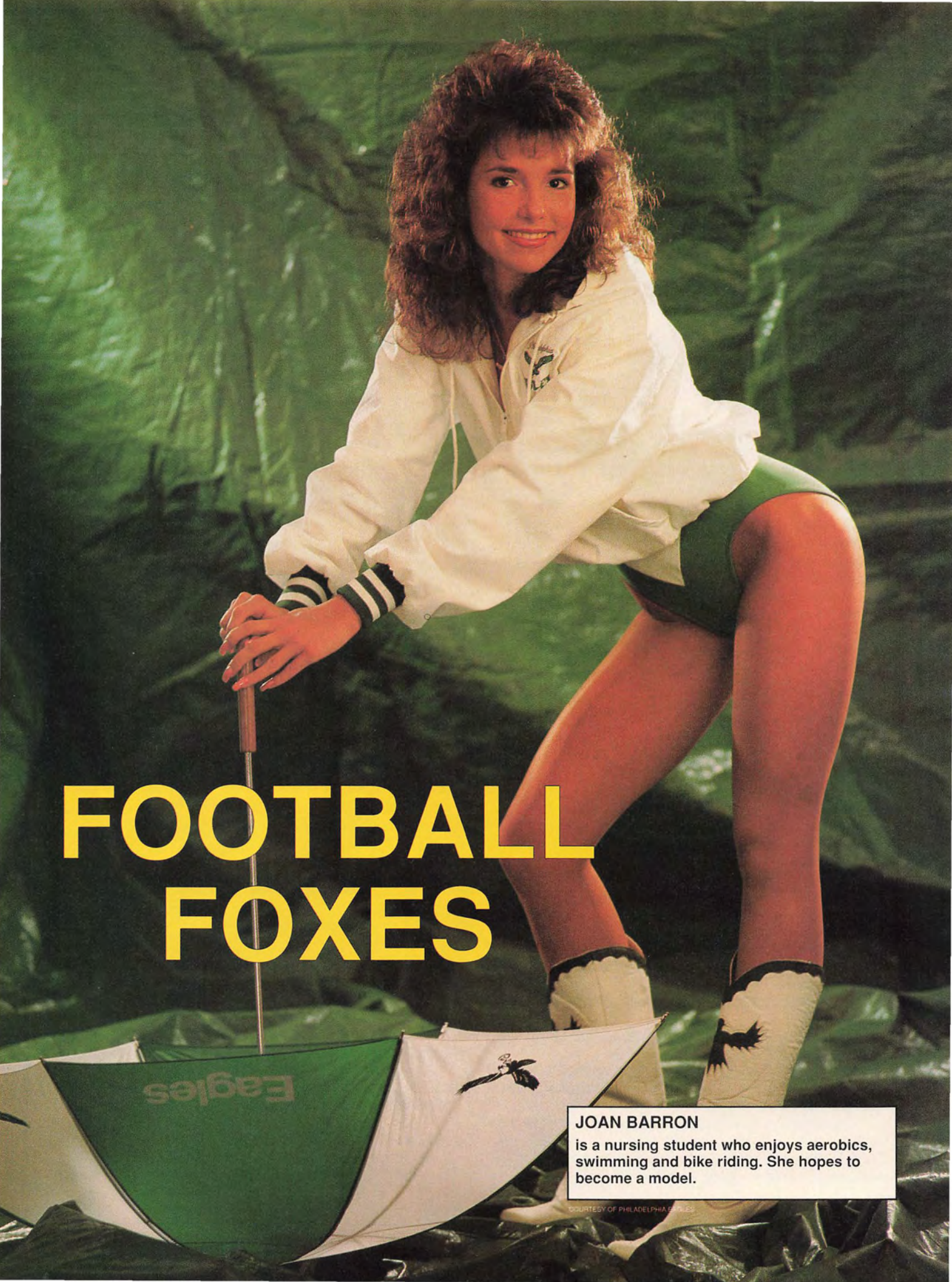
Glanville had a 33-32 record in his four seasons with the Oilers, going 28-19 in the three campaigns that ended in playoff appearances.

Glanville says he liked what he found in the Falcons' organizational structure, with special praise for Ken Herock, the director of player personnel and the team's draft guru.

"I felt like talking to Kenny that I may have been talking to myself," Glanville said. "He's a guy dedicated to winning."

Winning.

That's been the missing ingredient for most of Atlanta's NFL history.❑



FOOTBALL FOXES

JOAN BARRON

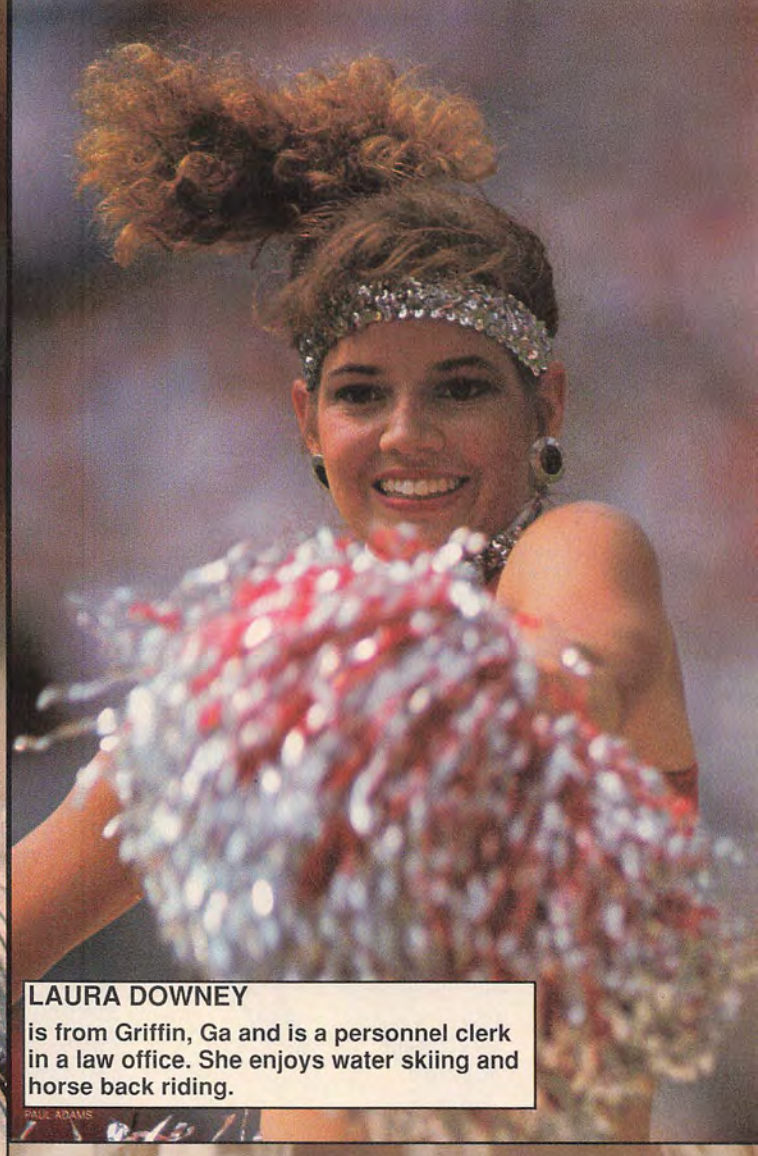
is a nursing student who enjoys aerobics, swimming and bike riding. She hopes to become a model.

COURTESY OF PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

KIANA TOM

is a model and actress who enjoys tennis, wind surfing, skiing and cycling.

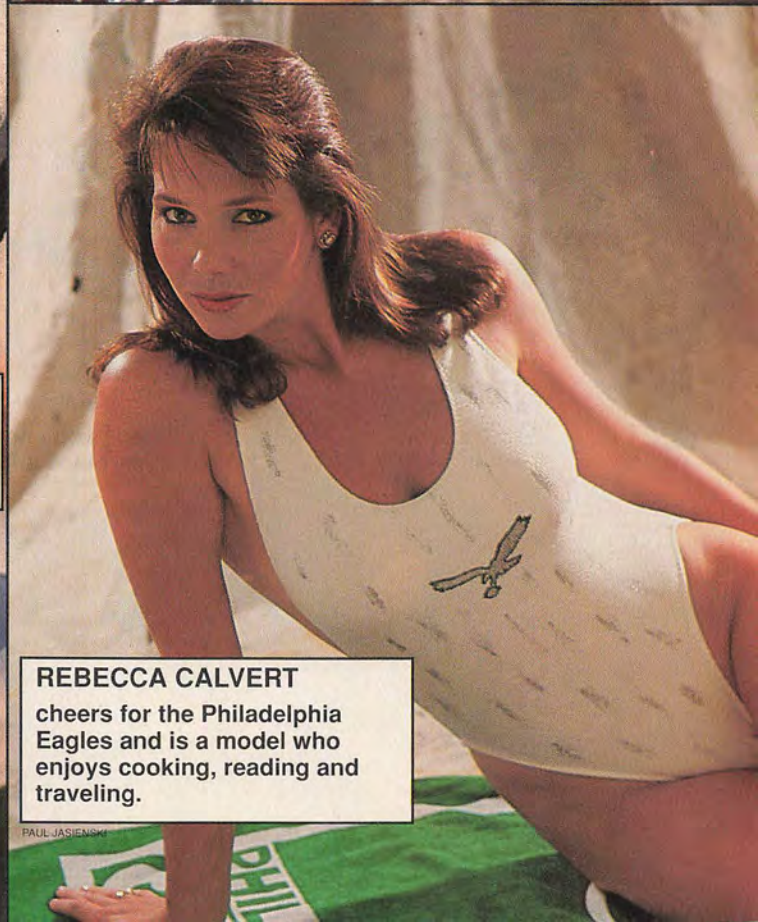
PAUL JASIENSKI



LAURA DOWNEY

is from Griffin, Ga and is a personnel clerk in a law office. She enjoys water skiing and horse back riding.

PAUL ADAMS



REBECCA CALVERT

cheers for the Philadelphia Eagles and is a model who enjoys cooking, reading and traveling.

PAUL JASIENSKI

STACEY NOMELAND

is a student who enjoys movies, aerobics and sports.

PETE A. GRECH

PAIGE HAGELE

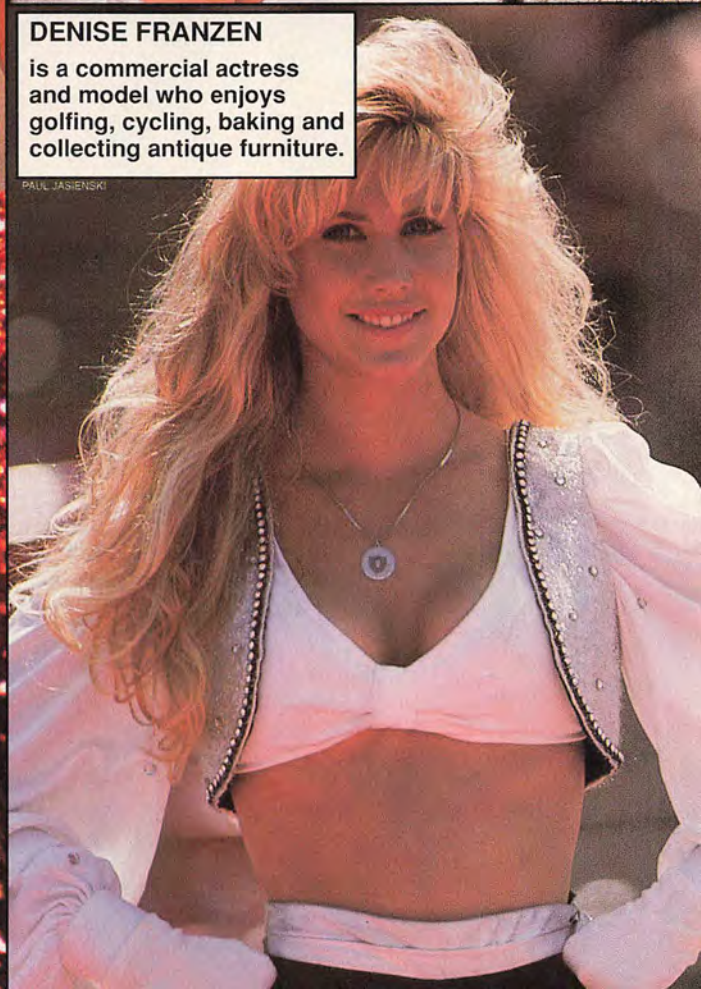
is a commercial actress and model. She is an avid sports enthusiast and likes traveling, water and snow skiing.

PAUL JASIENSKI

DENISE FRANZEN

is a commercial actress and model who enjoys golfing, cycling, baking and collecting antique furniture.

PAUL JASIENSKI



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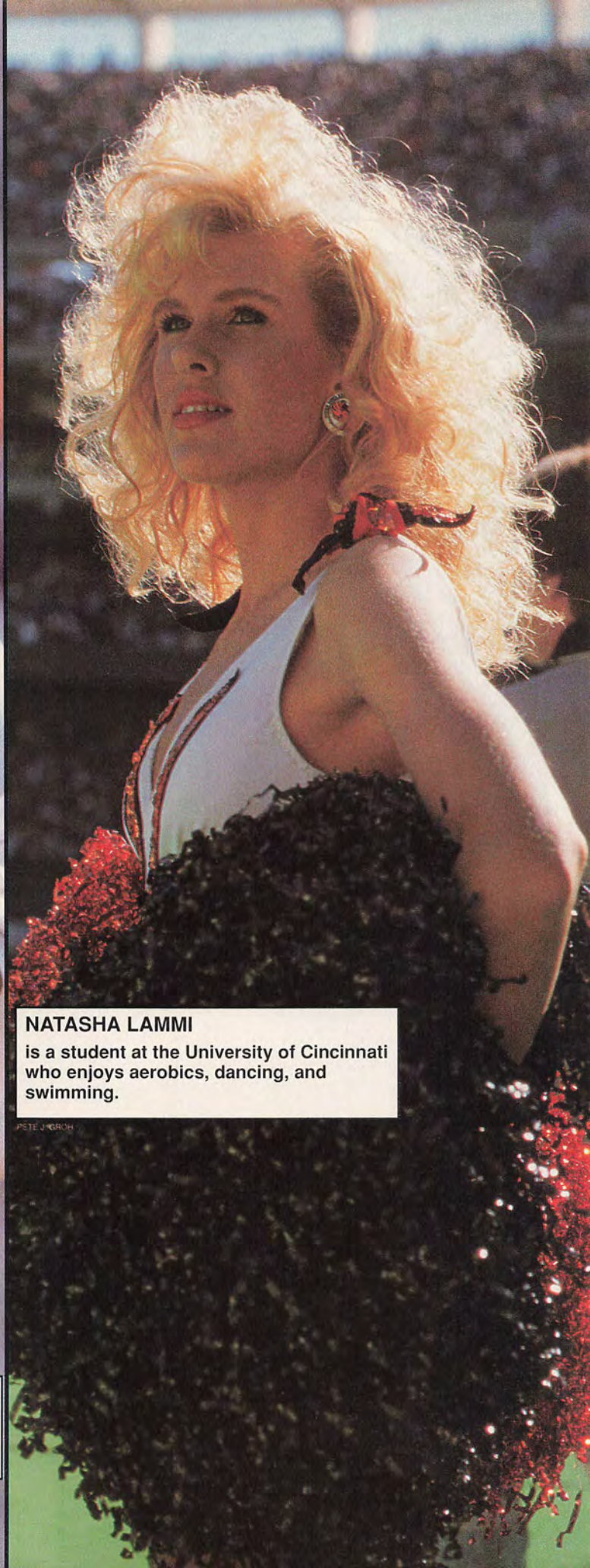
MITZI SMITH

is a legal assistant who attends Hillsborough Community College. Her hobbies include swimming and dancing.

BOB ROSATO - ALLSPORT



NATASHA LAMMI

is a student at the University of Cincinnati who enjoys aerobics, dancing, and swimming.

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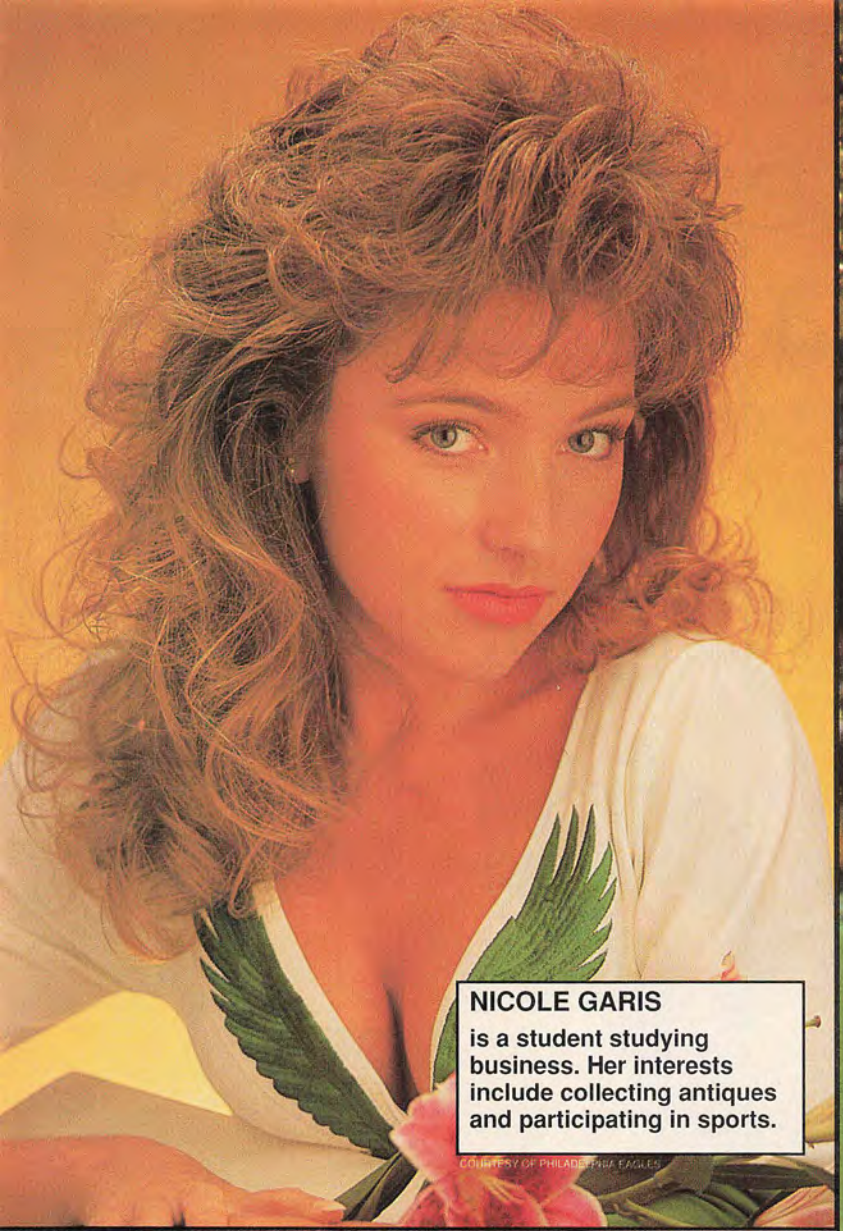

NICOLE GARIS

is a student studying business. Her interests include collecting antiques and participating in sports.

COURTESY OF PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRETCHEN STOCKDALE

cheers for the Los Angeles Raiders and was named "Raiderette of the Year." Her hobbies include reading, bowling, swimming and spectator sports.

CINDY DANIELS

is from Sherman Oaks, Ca. She enjoys dancing and water sports.

CHARLES BEHNKHOT - ALLSPORT

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NATALIE ARRELL

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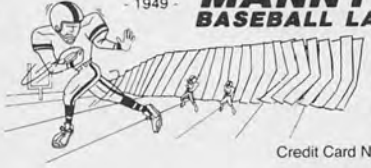

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ARMY RESERVE PRESENTS:

NFL Draft Analysis

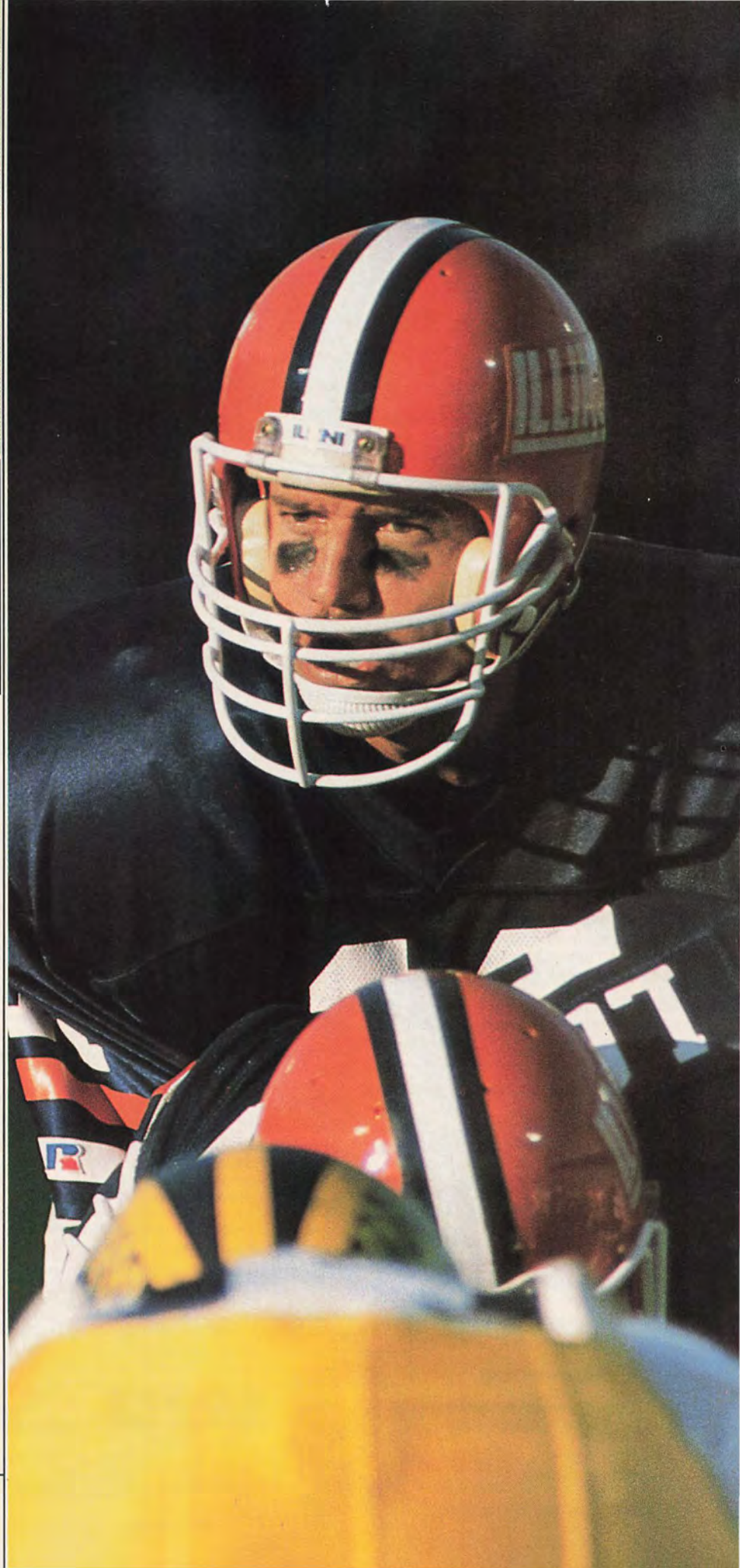
How important is the NFL draft? Is it the cure-all for ailing teams? Is it the only way to build a foundation? Or is it overrated?

Dick Steinberg is beginning to think the latter, and not because he hasn't done well in his selections. Like most personnel directors who survive, Steinberg has had enough success to offset the mistakes, enough Andre Tippetts to make people forget the disappointments of Kenneth Sims.

"I think the value of first-rounders is overblown," says Steinberg, in his first year as general manager of the Jets after nine years directing personnel decisions with the Patriots. "They hold out, they miss too much work, then they come in late and maybe pull a muscle or are slow to grasp what we're trying to do."

Steinberg probably is in the minority with that opinion, particularly after this year's selection session. With so many attractive underclassmen eligible — eight went in the first round, including five of the first seven selections — you didn't hear many complaints on draft day.

But, as the Chicago Bears proved with their first pick, safety Mark Carrier of Southern California, signing these guys early is utmost in many NFL minds. The



It took a king's ransom for the Colts to pluck Jeff George away from the Falcons.

JONATHAN DANIEL

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Bears might have taken a couple other players, but their agents weren't interested in signing in April. So Chicago went for Carrier, projected as a second-rounder, and he gladly inked a contract.

The influx of underclassmen, who were allowed into the draft by new commissioner Paul Tagliabue — a lawyer who knows all about constitutional rights — caused both smiles and consternation around the league. General managers and coaches were thrilled to have so much talent to choose from. But they also worried about the trend.

"Remember, just more than half of the juniors who came out were picked," San Diego GM Bobby Beathard said. "What about the others, who no longer have their eligibility, but have a couple years of school left. They might have proven themselves in those years. Now, they have nothing."

Adds Steinberg, who did not take an underclassman, "It just makes an inexact science even less precise and more difficult. It makes the scouting process more difficult. Now, you are concentrating on not just seniors, but players who might come out."

That doesn't mean NFL teams will ignore the underclassmen. There's just too much talent, albeit unrefined, on the horizon.

NFC EAST

NEW YORK — Although they are getting thin on the defensive line and would have loved one of the quality outside linebackers available, the Giants added to their crowded backfield by taking junior Rodney Hampton of Georgia. A deeper look at that backfield shows a bunch of specialists, however: Ottis Anderson as the workhorse, though, at 33, how much more work can he handle?; inexperienced Lewis Tillman; ultra dangerous Dave Meggett, who has to be used in situations because of his lack of size; blocker Maurice Carthon; and Joe Morris, coming off of a broken leg that cost him the entire 1989 season.

Hampton can do some of everything and was not something New York expected to get at No. 24.

"I don't know what this means, but I don't think you'll see Hampton being handed anything," Anderson said. "He'll have to prove himself against some pretty stiff competition."

The Giants got around to the line with their next two picks, Mike Fox of West Virginia and Greg Mark of Miami. Both made the big plays in college.

PHILADELPHIA — Buddy Ryan desperately wanted a cornerback who could stop the bomb and wideouts who could catch it. His 46 defense won't work without a speedy, smart backfield and only Eric Allen gave him that. So Ryan took Ben Smith of Georgia and said, "You're a starter." Then he got three receivers to help Randall Cunningham and Keith Jackson in Mike Bellamy of Illinois, Fred Barnett of Arkansas State and Calvin Williams of Purdue.

WASHINGTON — With the first selection elsewhere — this time in Atlanta for Gerald Riggs — the Redskins had to wait until the 46th spot to get someone. They got an undersized linebacker with lots of speed in Andre Collins. Best of all, he is from Linebacker U — Penn State. Collins might inspire Wilber Marshall back to form.

The next two choices, All-American guard Mo Elewonibi of BYU and QB Cary Conklin of Washington will sit and learn. Elewonibi sank to the third round because of shoulder problems.

"I passed half the physicals and flunked half of them," he said. "Go figure."

PHOENIX — With their first choice used in the supplemental draft last year for QB Timm Rosenbach, the Cardinals missed out on the No. 3 selection overall. It's too soon to judge on Rosenbach, of course, but they might have had Cortez Kennedy and still come away with the RB they needed on the second round, which is when they got Anthony Thompson of Indiana.

"The first pick had to be an impact player, and we got one in Anthony Thompson," new coach Joe Bugel said. "We feel very good about this draft."

If the speed demons the Cardinals selected later on work out, Bugel could be right.

DALLAS — Sure, they made a huge error last year in taking Steve Walsh in the supplemental. Walsh never will be more than a backup quarterback, unless Troy Aikman gets hurt, and coach Jimmy Johnson found Walsh had no value on the market before the draft.

But give Johnson credit for being aggressive. He had Emmitt Smith of Florida rated the fourth-best player and No. 2 runner. When Smith still was available at No. 17, Johnson traded with Pittsburgh to get him.

Super fast WR Alex Wright of Auburn will be a nice complement to Michael Irvin. The offense is taking shape, but Johnson got nothing for the line.

NFC CENTRAL

MINNESOTA — The Vikings expected to be watching the early portion of this draft as Super Bowl champions, with Herschel Walker safely tucked away, ready to lead them back to another championship this year. It didn't work out that way, and the Vikes sat until the 54th choice.

It's unlikely Minnesota got anyone who will make a big contribution this season.

"When I look over our entire roster, with the Plan B free agents and the 37 protected players and the rookies, our roster seems very complete to me," said Jerry Burns, whose coaching future probably depends on his being right this year.

GREEN BAY — Selecting 18th and 19th in the opening round, the Packers targeted running back and outside LB. They didn't get the top players at either spot, of course, but they got a pair that could start. LB Tony Bennett of Mississippi really impressed in postseason games and combine workouts, and RB Darrell Thompson of Minnesota is a breakaway running threat, though not much in the passing game.

The next two selections, CB Leroy Butler of Florida State and LB Bobby Houston of N.C. State, bear watching.

DETROIT — Give the Lions credit. They have committed fully to the run-and-shoot Silver Stretch, so they got the master of that type offense, Andre Ware, to run it. The Heisman Trophy winner from Houston should beat out incumbent Rodney Peete and, with Barry Sanders, forms an exciting backfield. Detroit has done exceptionally well by gambling on underclassmen.

To shore up defensive line woes, the Lions took Dan Owens of USC and Marc Spindler of Pitt, who has a knee problem.

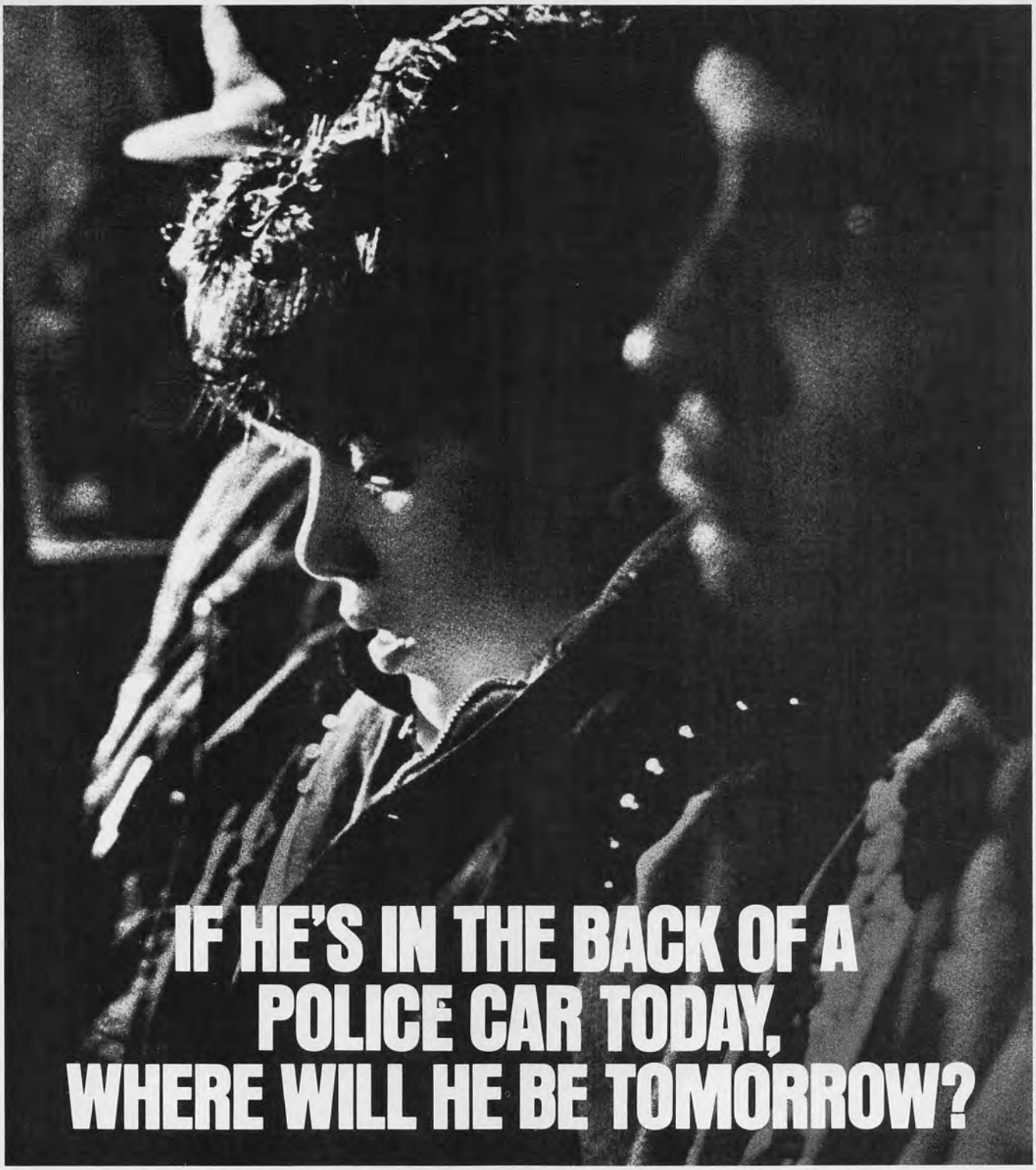
"We've had a tremendous number of injuries there, and that's where we needed to get help," Coach Wayne Fontes said of the defensive line.

CHICAGO — Carrier was a stretch, but he is a good player who should start. That there were at least three DBs rated higher doesn't bother the Bears. "I said we need someone to turn heads," Coach Mike Ditka said. "If you don't watch out, he'll knock it off."

Chicago's defense is in disarray — not that it's offense is in much better shape — and Ditka took DT Fred Washington of TCU, speedy linebacker Ron Cox of Fresno State and USC defensive tackle Tim Ryan on the next three picks. But his most intriguing selection was QB Peter Tom Willis of Florida State with the 63rd overall choice. Yes, Willis could give the weak quarterbacks in Chicago a push.

TAMPA — Nobody went out on a limb more than Ray

❑ *continued on page 229.*



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COACH ART SHELL

By Mike Taylor

Art Shell — the new version now 35 pounds lighter thanks to an off-season weight loss program — is busy these days preparing for his first full season as Head Coach of the Los Angeles Raiders.

In fact, he began working on the 1990 season just days after the 1989 season ended. "I started making plans on organizing the staff, off-season workouts and camps, that type of thing," said Shell who, at age 43, is the youngest Head Coach in the National Football League.

Shell, the Raiders' offensive line coach since 1983, took over in midseason for deposed Raider Head Coach Mike Shanahan, the former (and current) Denver Broncos assistant and first "outsider" brought in by Raider boss Al Davis to lead his team. Shanahan lasted for 20 games and began the 1989 campaign by going 0-4 during the preseason, then 1-3 in league play.

The Raiders believe in lining up and daring you to stop them, without the tricks. Shanahan brought in a scheme-oriented offensive philosophy, the antithesis in theory of what the Raiders had been utilizing since their American Football League days.

Therein lies the story of Shanahan's stormy 1-1/4 year tenure as the Raiders' coach. Davis had hoped Shanahan was the man to update and supplement the Raiders' vertical game, not totally change it.

"When I originally made the determination to hire Mike Shanahan, it was predicated on the feeling that I thought our organization needed a fresh implementation of ideas to go along with what we were doing," said Davis, who served as Head Coach and General Manager of the Raiders from 1963–65. "I felt we were not going in a direction of addition, but one of total change. I make these points to you.

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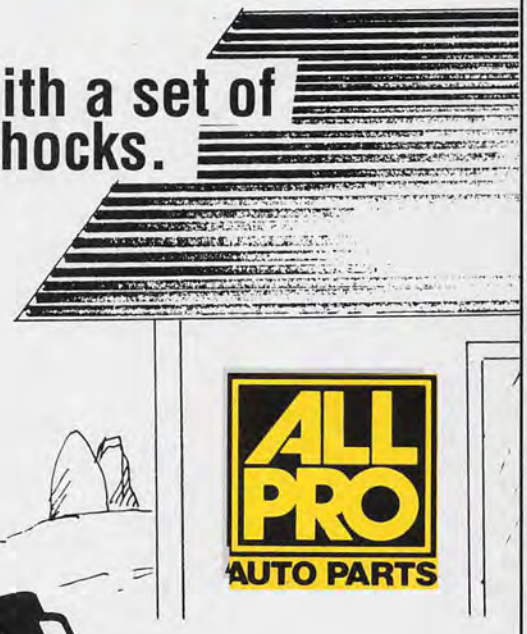

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Davis' appointment of Shell marked the first time a black man has been Head Coach in the NFL since the 1920s, when Fritz Pollard coached the Hammond Pros.

The enormity of the event was not lost on Shell, a soft-spoken yet intense man known for his hard-hitting, all-out style during 15 seasons as a player with the Raiders.

"It is an historic event, and I understand the significance of it," Shell said on Oct. 3, 1989, the day he was named Head Coach. "But the main thing is, I know who I am and I'm proud of it. But I'm also a Raider and I don't believe the color of my skin entered into this decision. I think if you know Al Davis and this organization, you'll understand that. I was chosen because he felt I was the right person, at this time, to be the Head Coach of this great organization. I also knew that if anybody would do what is happening today, it would be my guy."

Davis similarly recognizes the significance of hiring of the first black coach in modern NFL history. "The greatness of bringing Jackie (Robinson) into baseball wasn't bringing Jackie into baseball," Davis said. "It was the great success that Jackie had when he got into baseball. I told Art that. I said, 'You know, all the great things you've done as a player can be lost if we're not successful.' That's the important thing to me — that he succeeds — that we give him every opportunity to be successful. If this is an historic occasion — and I realize who he is and what's happening here, I'm not lost on that — it's only meaningful and historic if he's a great success; and that's what we have to achieve."

The first thing Shell did was to replace Shanahan's high-tech offense with the more simplified, power-oriented, physical attack the Silver and Black had utilized with much success for many years. "We just had to become the Raiders again. We had to regain our identity — the identity of explosion and simplicity," Shell said.

"We don't care if you know where we are on the field. We don't care about that. We also know where you are. We want to keep things simple here, put our players in a position to win."

Next to go were Shanahan's imposed sanctions on old, time-tested Raiderisms like players sitting on their helmets during practice and eating sunflower seeds in the locker room.

After all, these were the Raiders, the rough-and-tumble, hard-nosed, take-no-prisoners fellows. We're talking about the originators of the bad boy mentality, not the adult models for the Boy Scouts of America.

Shell's Raiders went 7-5 (6-0 at home) to finish 8-8 but missed the playoffs by one game. The team was disappointed about being left out of postseason play for the fourth straight year, yet optimistic about playing a full season under Shell.

"Coach Shell brought back Raider traditions that I think will help us get back in the playoffs," said defensive end Greg Townsend.

"With Art and his staff having a full year to prepare, I think we're going to make significant strides," reasons defensive tackle Bob Golic.

Raiders cornerback Mike Haynes concurred with his teammates: "He's been with the organization for over 20 years. He knows the organization inside and out. I think Art will be here a long time, and I think he'll be very, very successful."

Of course, Shell is looking forward to the challenge of reviving those Silver Sundays and Black Knights. "We're heading in the right direction, and I guess we'll realize that when we've won a Super Bowl," says Shell of an organization which has three Super Bowl trophies to its credit. "I won't predict a week, a day, when it will all come together. When it does, everyone will know. But I think it's inevitable we'll win another Super Bowl."

"We're heading in the right direction, and I guess we'll realize that when we've won a Super Bowl," says Shell . . . "I won't predict a week, a day, when it will all come together. When it does, everyone will know. But I think it's inevitable we'll win another Super Bowl."

And who would be a better choice for reinfusing Silver and Black blood back into the system than a man beginning his 23rd year with the team?

Shell would gather his troops, telling them, "We're going back to the twilight zone," but it's really like sitting around the campfire telling stories, he says. "I tell them about Jack Tatum's hits and Snake (Ken Stabler) sticking his head in the huddle with a minute to go in the game, saying, 'Boys, let's win it and go home happy.' We always passed down what it meant to be a Raider. Wearing the Silver and Black commanded respect. The fans might boo you, they might yell at you, but you got respect."

Home was where Art Shell learned the meaning of keeping hallowed customs alive and passing them on. He grew up the eldest of five children in the Daniel Jenkins project in Charleston, SC. The Shell clan's tiny red-brick dwelling on Pickens Street was always filled with love, sensitivity, and discipline. His mother, Gertrude, suffered from a heart problem and, as the senior sibling, he helped her with the cooking and cleaning. "I was very close to her because I was with her so much," Shell remembers. "She loved to talk, and I loved to listen."

Gertrude died of a heart attack at age 35, and Shell remembers his father, Arthur Sr., gathering the family together after the funeral. "He said he'd keep us together," Shell recalls. "He told us family was the most important thing." While the senior Shell went to work at a paper mill, Art Jr. looked after his three brothers and one sister. However, he did find time to participate in sports.

Find time, indeed.

As a senior, Shell earned All-State honors in football as a center and defensive tackle, and in basketball as a center at Bonds-Wilson High School in Charleston.

As they would today, the Auburns, the Alabamas and the Georgias didn't come knocking at his door. The Southern schools didn't recruit blacks back then. In fact, South Carolina had just played its first football All-Star game for blacks. An integrated game wouldn't come until later.

Shell considered Ohio State of the Big 10 as one possibility. "I wrote Ohio State Coach Woody Hayes," he says, chuckling at the recollection. "I typed Hayes a letter — took typing my senior year. Never sent the letter. I

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had it in an envelope. I don't know what would have happened if I had sent the letter."

Instead, Shell opted for Maryland State (now called Maryland-Eastern Shore) after the school's coach showed up at the Shell home and insisted, "I'm not leaving without you." He went on to become a two-way player in each of his four years at Maryland State and earned Little All-American honors in both his junior and senior years. He also lettered two seasons in basketball.

The Raiders, long known for finding players from lesser-known schools, knew they'd discovered a gem in this massive offensive lineman and used a premium third-round pick in the 1968 draft to get him.

Remembers John Madden, then the Raiders' Head Coach: "The primary thing we saw in Art was his great size. But we also were excited that he was an accomplished basketball player. With that size, combined with his ability to move his feet and the agility he showed on the basketball court, we knew we had a quality prospect."

Shell wanted to find what the prospects were so, after the semester was over, he headed out West.

"As soon as I graduated, I hopped on a plane and came out to Oakland.. I was out there before training camp, just working, trying to learn techniques. I stayed at a hotel and players stopped by or called to make sure I was comfortable. That was a very big relief."

One of those who called on his new teammate was a brash, boisterous, second-year offensive lineman named Gene Upshaw, the Raiders' first-round pick a year earlier. The relationship between Upshaw and Shell grew, both on and off the field. The two of them anchored the left side of the Raider offensive line for more than 200 games, prompting Doug Sutherland of the Minnesota Vikings to comment, "They could block out the sun."

Some believed the Raiders developed a penchant for going left because their quarterback, Stabler, was left-handed. Not so, according to Madden — just a case of the Raiders taking advantage of their future Hall of Famers every chance they got.

"It had nothing to do with the fact that Kenny was left-handed," Madden said. "It was more of a case where if you had those two great players over to run behind, why not as many times as possible?

Off the field, the duo would make excursions on road trips to barbeque joints. They'd also whip teammates in cards regularly. Shell and Upshaw always demanded adjoining rooms at training camp and traded good-natured barbs.

"The only time I ever get hurt is when you fall or step on me," Shell would tell Upshaw. "Gene, I don't know what's worse, you or the defense." Upshaw would counter with, "Shell, how much do you REALLY weigh?"

What the 6'5" Shell weighed was of no importance to the Raiders as long as his high level of performance didn't suffer. The only suffering was to opponents who had to contend with this man, so physically massive, yet so nifty afoot.

Madden remembers Shell as one who commanded respect because of his blue-collar, lunch pail work ethic. "He was one of those quiet leaders who commanded respect just by being a great player," Madden recalls. "He never, ever acted like a tough guy. He was business-like, but whether you were his teammate or an opponent, you knew this was a man who deserved your deepest respect."

"John Madden told me as long as I performed, it didn't matter to him how much I weighed, so when everybody else got on the scales I would walk on by," he said.

Shell's peers appreciated his efforts so much that they voted him into eight Pro Bowls during a playing career that spanned three decades — the 60s, 70s, and 80s. The Raiders posted a 150-56-7 record with Shell at the left tackle spot and made the playoffs 11 times. He was a starter during wins in Super Bowls XI and XV.

It was during the Raiders' first Super Bowl win that Shell showed the world just how good a player he was. Minnesota's highly regarded defensive end Jim Marshall, playing opposite Shell, finished the game without a single tackle, sack or assist as the Raiders beat the Vikings, 32-14.

"When somebody told me I had a perfect game, I was shocked because I had no idea Marshall had not been in on even one play," Shell recalls, "Play by play, quarter by quarter, I was totally involved in doing the best job I could."

Shell earned his third championship ring as an assistant coach when the Silver and Black beat the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl XVIII.

As an active player from 1968-1982, Shell appeared in 207 league games, including 156 in a row, and 23 postseason contests for the Raiders.

Madden remembers Shell as one who commanded respect because of his blue-collar, lunch pail work ethic. "He was one of those quiet leaders who commanded respect just by being a great player," Madden recalls. "He never, ever acted like a tough guy. He was business-like, but whether you were his teammate or an opponent, you knew this was a man who deserved your deepest respect."

Lyle Alzado was one player who knew Shell both as a teammate and as an opponent. He knocked heads a few times with Shell when he played for the Denver Broncos and Cleveland Browns and also during practice when both played for the 1982 Raiders.

Alzado remarked to a Los Angeles reporter: "Art would kill you with kindness. The first time we played, he smiled and said, 'How you going, Lyle?' I thought, 'What the hell is this?' He proceeded to drive me off the ground, drop me on my back and run over me. Art was impossible to rattle. I'd talk about his mother, his sister and brothers. He ignored me. I hated Art Shell."

Reasoned Shell on his friendly demeanor: "That's just the way I am. I want to greet the guy and have a good tough game, but we don't want to be vicious about it and take cheap shots."

Shell's success with the Raiders did not come immediately. "Coming into the pros was an eye-opening experience," he confesses.

"The toughest adjustment was pass-blocking. In college, we ran more than we passed. When we did pass-block, it was like taking the guy right there on the line in what you'd call a short set. In the pros, you can't do it that way every time."

Also standing in the way was a veteran named Bob Svihus, an established starter at left tackle. Shell played backup and on special teams his first two seasons until an injury to Svihus during the 1970 preseason thrust the young player into the limelight.

Shell proceeded to harass defensive ends for nine seasons until he was carried off the field after suffering a knee injury dur-

ing a 1979 preseason game. There were fears that Shell, long in tooth by NFL standards at age 32, might not make it back. Seven weeks later, there he was, big Number 78 at left tackle, thanks to hard work and fierce determination.

"It was an amazing recovery," recalls Tom Flores, coach of the Raiders at the time. "He worked out as many as four times a day on his own. Any other player would have been out for the season." He then played in an additional 512 straight games before retiring in 1982.

Shell possessed a thorough knowledge of the game. In fact, he'd make sure he knew what every offensive player's assignment was on every play. Obviously, the coaching bug had bitten Shell as he was wrapping up what would later become a career in which he received the highest honor in sports.

While still an active player, Shell put in an apprenticeship as a volunteer assistant at the University of California in the springs of 1981 and 1982. Following his retirement after the 1982 season, Shell joined the Raiders' coaching staff, a position he held until replacing Shanahan.

For Shell, the events of last year could be likened to a roller coaster ride. On the morning of Jan. 24, 1989, Shell learned he had made the Pro Football Hall of Fame, joining six other Raiders, including his old buddy and former linemate, Upshaw.

However, the day soon turned bittersweet. Shell received a call from his sister, Eartha, telling him that his father had suffered a stroke. He died less than an hour before Shell's flight arrived in Charleston. "I went straight to the hospital and sat in the room with him by myself," Shell says. "I reflected on my life. I knew I had made him happy."

Shell was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Oh, on Aug. 5, 1989. During the weekend, Janice, his wife of over 20 years; sons Art III and Christopher; brothers Bennie, Lawrence, and Kenneth; and Eartha gathered to reminisce about old times, about Mom and Dad and the sense of tradition they'd left with the Shell clan.

"Art was often in tears," recalls Kenneth, a football coach himself at Carver High School in Baltimore. "I reminded him that Daddy and Momma were both right there beside all of us."

Art Shell looks back on a year filled with joy and pain. "Last year was a very difficult one. Some things have been great. The Hall of Fame, becoming a Head Coach in the NFL. Some have been difficult. I miss my Dad, but I know he's proud of me."

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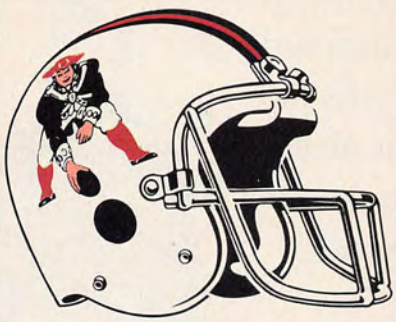


NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

BUFFALO BILLS

BILLS AT THE CROSSROADS

BY SCOTT PITONIAK

A writer from a national sports magazine visited the Buffalo Bills the week before last January's AFC playoff game against the Cleveland Browns.

Someone wondered why the *National Enquirer* wasn't represented, too.

The query had some legitimacy, given the turmoil surrounding the '89 Bills.

They may not have been the winningest team in football last fall, but when it came to generating the kind of bizarre news you'd expect to find in the checkout counter rag sheets, the Bills were the undisputed champions of the National Football League.

"Look at it this way," drawled Pro Bowl center Kent Hull when asked to sum up the season, "we helped sell a lot of newspapers."

That they did.

It got so inquiring minds couldn't wait to pick up the morning paper to see what new calamity awaited the Bills.

Players traded verbal barbs and coaches traded punches. The general manager told a few critical members of the Fourth Estate "to get out of town," but many of the fans mistakenly thought the remarks had been directed at them, and so another crisis erupted. The day after the season ended, controversy continued when several players claimed that Coach Marv Levy had divided the team by coddling "certain superstars."

That the Bills were a ship listing out of control was underscored the day after their 21-point victory against Miami on Oct. 29 when assistant coaches Nick Nicolau and Tom Bresnahan staged their version of Tyson-Douglas in a Rich Stadium meeting room. Underdog Nicolau floored the much larger Bresnahan with an uppercut to the chin, then rammed his head through a drywall.

That incident, perhaps even more than Ronnie Harmon's drop of a potential winning touchdown pass in the waning seconds of the playoff loss to the Browns, summed up the Bills' tumultuous season.

Despite the many off-field distractions, the bickering Bills managed to win their second consecutive divisional title. The last time that happened, Jack Kemp was Buffalo's quarterback and LBJ was in the White House.

But the Bills' record plummeted from 13-5 in '88 to 9-8 (including playoffs) last year, and that didn't set well with ambitious

fans who were expecting nothing less than a Super Bowl victory.

"Winning the Super Bowl was our goal, but it wasn't an expectancy on our part," Levy explained. "I think that, to some degree, our record a year ago, where we squeaked out some early victories (the '88 Bills won five games by a field goal or less) maybe set expectancies higher than, as a coach, you'd like to have them."

Levy would be wise to stock up on the Maalox because the fans' expectations could be just as high this season. Many already have voiced their displeasure over the team's decision to increase ticket prices for a third consecutive year. Some also are grumbling about the contract extension quarterback Jim Kelly received in the offseason, which will move his annual salary into the $3-million neighborhood.

1989 was a bittersweet season for Kelly. He got off to an MVP start, rifling 10 touchdown passes as the Bills won three of their first four games. But in Week V, offensive tackle Howard Ballard missed a block and Indianapolis Colts defensive end Jon Hand drove Kelly into the Hoosier Dome carpet, separating the quarterback's shoulder and sidelining him for three games. The day after that 23-point loss to the Colts, Kelly publicly blamed Ballard and said the struggling second-year pro should be removed from the lineup. The Western New York media placed Kelly on a rotisserie for his crass remarks. Several Bills players said privately they couldn't believe that a guy could be so insensitive toward a teammate.

Frank Reich, who was in danger of being cut during training camp, wound up a pleasant surprise, guiding the Bills to three wins in Kelly's absence.

When he returned, Kelly struggled through the worst slump of his four-year NFL career. He threw eight interceptions in his final five games, and the front office worried that their once cocky quarterback had lost his confidence. Those fears, however, were allayed in the playoff loss to the Browns as Kelly completed 28 of 54 passes for 405 yards and four touchdowns. His statistics would have been mind-boggling had his receivers not dropped eight passes.

"I don't know how anyone who saw his performance against the Browns can say Kelly's salary isn't justified," said Bill Polian, the team's feisty general manager. "It's commensurate with what the league's other premier quarterbacks are making."

Before last season, the experts were extolling the virtues of the Bills' defense and wondering when the offense was going to do its part. But, in a surprising development, the defense wound up playing second fiddle to the offense in '89, a turnabout that may continue this fall. Despite the injury to Kelly,

the Bills led the AFC in scoring and yardage. Kelly and Reich combined for a club-record 32 touchdown passes.

The Bills could be even more explosive this season if Andre Reed and Thurman Thomas continue to produce big numbers.

Jim Kelly must be consistent for Bills to be super. RICK STEWART / ALLSPORT

Reed, a fifth-year player from tiny Kutztown (Pa) State, had the finest season enjoyed by a receiver in club history. Not only did he establish a team mark for receptions with 88, but he also amassed 1,312 yards and scored nine touchdowns.

"He's doing the things that remind you of Jerry Rice," Kelly said. "The thing about Andre is that he sets his goals higher every year, and he keeps surpassing those goals every year. Of course, I don't know how much higher he can go. He's already as complete a receiver as you can be in my book. If he gets any better, they'll be comparing Rice to him."

Thomas is another player who is going to have difficulty surpassing last year's numbers. He was good enough to keep Barry Sanders on the bench for three years when the two were teammates at Oklahoma State, but Thomas lasted until the second round because teams were leery of the knee injury he had suffered before his junior season. The knee must be pretty sturdy because Thomas rushed for 1,244 yards, set a team record for most receptions by a Bills running back with 60 and led the NFL in yards from scrimmage. Thomas was thrust into the receiving role when veteran Robb Riddick suffered a season-ending knee injury during the exhibition finale. Riddick has been following a rehabilitation program in hopes of making a comeback this season.

The only knock on Thomas is that he tends to wear down toward the end of the season. He ran only 60 times for 199 yards during the last four games and caught only 13 passes for 111 yards over the same span. Still, Thomas accounted for more than one-third of the Bills' offense and was the team's MVP in many eyes.

Thomas was complemented well by 265-pound fullback Larry Kinnebrew, whose brutish runs off tackle produced 533 yards and prevented teams from paying too much attention to his backfield mate. Kinnebrew's power running was instrumental in three Buffalo wins, but he also had a nagging habit of drawing foolish penalties and his fumble in the Seattle loss ruined the Bills' comeback.

Several offensive linemen privately complained about new line coach Tom Bresnahan, but that didn't prevent the unit from turning in a solid season. Led by Hull and guard Jim Ritcher, the Bills rushed for more than 200 yards five times and allowed only 35 sacks, four below the league average.

Hull, a USFL expatriate, may be the best center in the game, while Ritcher continues to be overlooked in Pro Bowl balloting despite consistently good performances week in and week out. Will Wolford, a first-round pick in 1986, is a solid performer at left tackle.

The line should be good again, providing the Bills can find a replacement for departed veteran Joe Devlin and Ballard shows marked improvement. The Devlin void could be a big one. John Davis, Leonard Burton and developmental squad tackle Derrell Marshall return, but last year none of them were able to push Devlin out of the lineup, so this could continue to be a problem area.

Reed remains the Bills' "go-to guy," but they need to get their other wide receivers to carry more of the load this fall. The second wideout spot became a musical-chair position with Chris Burkett (now with the Jets), Flip Johnson and James Lofton sharing starts in '89. Levy was pleased with the development of rookie speedster Don Beebe, who caught two 63-yard bombs.

"He has the kind of speed that keeps defensive backs honest," Kelly said. "If guys cheat too close to the line to stop him, he'll burn them."

Tight end is expected to remain a three-man rotation. Veterans Pete Metzelaars, Keith McKeller and Butch Rolle combined for 39 receptions, 534 yards and five scores last fall. Metzelaars remains one of the NFL's better blocking tight ends. McKeller has excellent speed, as evidenced by his 17.1-yards-per-catch average. Rolle is a Pro Bowl-caliber special teams player, and although he has caught only nine passes during his four-year career, five have been for touchdowns.

If the Bills can solve their line problems and avoid injuries, they should be a high-scoring unit again. They may have to be if the defense continues to decline.

Buffalo's Blizzard Defense allowed more points and recorded eight fewer sacks than in '88, when they were the most dominating

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
FA	**Adams**, Michael	CB	5-11	193	1	Arkansas State
FA	**Aguiar**, Louie	P	6-3	210	1	Utah State
54	**Bailey**, Carlton	LB	6-2	237	3	North Carolina
75	**Ballard**, Howard	T	6-6	315	3	Alabama A&M
FA	**Barnes**, Lew	WR	5-8	170	2	Oregon
82	**Beebe**, Don	WR	5-11	177	1	Chadron State
55	**Bennett**, Cornelius	LB	6-2	235	4	Alabama
50	**Bentley**, Ray	LB	6-2	235	5	Central Michigan
FA	**Brady**, Kerry	K	6-1	200	3	Hawaii
61	**Burton**, Leonard	T	6-3	277	5	South Carolina
90	**Cofield**, Timmy	LB	6-2	242	5	Elizabeth City State
58	**Conlan**, Shane	LB	6-3	235	4	Penn State
79	**Davis**, John	OT	6-4	310	4	Georgia Tech
23	**Davis**, Kenneth	RB	5-10	209	5	Texas Christian
FA	**Doctor**, Sean	RB	6-1	235	1	Marshall
49	**Doctor**, Tom	LB	6-0	235	1	Canisius
45	**Drane**, Dwight	S	6-2	205	5	Oklahoma
FA	**Finch**, Lonnie	DB	6-0	188	1	Oklahoma
	Franklin, Darryl	WR	5-11	185	2	Washington
	Frerotte, Mitch	G	6-3	280	2	Penn State
FA	**Gerhart**, Thomas	S	6-1	200	1	Ohio State
FA	**Gicewicz**, Rich	TE	6-4	248	1	Michigan State
7	**Gilbert**, Gale	QB	6-3	210	3	California-Berkeley
81	**Glover**, Duval	WR	5-11	184	1	Syracuse
22	**Hagy**, John	S	5-11	190	3	Texas
26	**Hale**, Chris	CB	5-7	161	1	USC
67	**Hull**, Kent	C	6-5	275	5	Mississippi State
FA	**Hunter**, Jeffrey	DE	6-5	285	1	Albany State
47	**Jackson**, Kirby	CB	5-10	180	4	Mississippi State
93	**Jarvis**, Ralph	DE	6-5	260	1	Temple
92	**Jaworski**, Matt	LB	6-1	227	1	Colgate
12	**Kelly**, Jim	QB	6-3	218	5	Miami (FL)
38	**Kelso**, Mark	S	5-11	185	5	William & Mary
28	**Kinnebrew**, Larry	FB	6-2	256	7	Tennessee State
86	**Kolesar**, John	WR	5-10	187	1	Michigan
63	**Lingner**, Adam	C	6-4	268	8	Illinois
80	**Lofton**, James	WR	6-3	190	13	Stanford
68	**Marshall**, Derrell	T	6-4	305	1	USC
88	**Metzelaars**, Pete	TE	6-7	250	9	Wabash
84	**McKeller**, Keith	TE	6-4	245	3	Jacksonville State
21	**Mims**, Carl	CB	5-10	180	1	Sam Houston State
FA	**Mitchell**, Devon	S	6-1	198	2	Iowa
57	**Monger**, Matt	LB	6-1	240	5	Oklahoma State
74	**Nasner**, Bruce	NT	6-5	280	4	Maryland
39	**Mueller**, Jamie	FB	6-1	230	4	Benedictine
FA	**Nelson**, Todd	OL	6-5	290	1	Wisconsin-Madison
11	**Norwood**, Scott	K	6-0	207	6	James Madison
37	**Odomes**, Nate	CB	5-10	188	4	Wisconsin
94	**Pike**, Mark	DE	6-4	272	4	Georgia Tech
52	**Pritchett**, Wes	LB	6-4	234	1	Notre Dame
97	**Radecic**, Scott	LB	6-3	236	7	Penn State
83	**Reed**, Andre	WR	6-1	190	6	Kutztown State
14	**Reich**, Frank	QB	6-4	210	6	Maryland
40	**Riddick**, Robb	RB	6-0	195	8	Millersville State
51	**Ritcher**, Jim	G	6-3	273	11	North Carolina State
87	**Rolle**, Don (Butch)	TE	6-4	245	5	Michigan State
96	**Seals**, Leon	DE	6-5	267	4	Jackson State
25	**Smiley**, Tim	S	6-0	190	1	Arkansas State
78	**Smith**, Bruce	DE	6-4	280	6	Virginia Tech
FA	**Smith**, Don	RB	5-11	200	4	Mississippi State
46	**Smith**, Leonard	S	5-11	202	8	McNeese State
FA	**Southall**, Cornelius	FS	6-2	200	1	Notre Dame
30	**Starr**, Eric	RB	5-9	194	1	North Carolina
20	**Sutton**, Mickey	DB-PR	5-9	172	5	Montana
56	**Talley**, Darryl	LB	6-4	235	8	West Virginia
89	**Tasker**, Steve	WR	5-9	185	6	Northwestern
34	**Thomas**, Thurman	RB	5-10	198	3	Oklahoma State
FA	**Tuten**, Rick	P	6-2	218	1	Florida State
69	**Wolford**, Will	T	6-5	290	5	Vanderbilt
91	**Wright**, Jeff	NT	6-2	270	3	Cent. Missouri State

BILLS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	James **WILLIAMS** *CB*	5-10, 172	**Fresno State**	Recorded 58 tackles (49 solos) with 4 sacks and 5 stops for 44 yards in losses . . . Caused 2 fumbles and blocked 5 kicks . . . Had 9 pass deflections and picked off another.
2	Carwell **GARDNER** *FB*	6-2, 232	**Louisville**	Established himself as one of the nation's finest all-purpose runners in 1989, leading the team with 595 yards and 7 TDs on 139 carries, 614 yards and 5 scores on 46 catches and 111 yards on 3 kickoff returns.
3	Glenn **PARKER** *OT*	6-6, 301	**Arizona**	Tremendous size, strength and speed . . . Bench presses over 350 pounds . . . Recently timed at 5.16 in the 40 . . . All-Pac-10 Conference pick in 1989.
4	Eddie **FULLER** *TB*	5-9, 199	**Louisiana State**	Recently timed at 4.59 in the 40 . . . One of the few bright spots for the Tigers, leading the team with 140 carries for 649 yards (4.6 avg.) and 1 TD in 1989 . . . Second on the team with 38 receptions for 477 yards (12.6 avg.) and 9 TDs.
6	John **NIES** *P-PK*	6-2, 199	**Arizona**	Second team All-American . . . Punted 58 times for 2,406 yards (41.5 avg.) with a 38.9 net yard average . . . Only had 26 of his 46 kickoffs returned, with 29 boots going out of the end zone . . . Only 26 of his 58 punts were returned for yardage . . . Had 15 punts downed inside the 20.
7	Brent **GRIFFITH** *OT*	6-6, 300	**Minnesota-Duluth**	Began his college career at the University of Minnesota in 1984 . . . He was out of school in 1985 and redshirted in 1986 . . . Has started the past three years at Duluth . . . Bench presses 450 pounds . . . Good initial quickness for his weight.
7	Brent **COLLINS** *LB*	6-2, 245	**Carson-Newman**	University of Georgia transfer . . . Started the first seven games of the 1988 season and was leading the team in tackles before being injured . . . Played at Carson-Newman his senior season and led the team in tackles by a wide margin.
7	Fred **DeRIGGI** *NG*	6-2, 268	**Syracuse**	Two year starter . . . Has been tried on both sides of the ball . . . A consistent defensive lineman who was sixth on the team and first among the linemen with 67 tackles (37 solos).
8	Marcus **PATTON** *LB*	6-1, 216	**UCLA**	One of five Bruins with over 100 tackles in 1989 . . . Had 106 tackles including 22 for loss and 11 sacks.
9	Clarkston **HINES** *WR*	5-11, 163	**Duke**	Holds the school, conference and NCAA record with 38 touchdown catches . . . Set Blue Devil and conference all-time records with 189 receptions for 3,318 yards and 17 contests with over 100 yards receiving.
10	Mike **LODISH** *DT*	6-3, 260	**UCLA**	Possesses great stength and owns several UCLA weightlifting records . . . Top tackler among UCLA's down linemen with 67 stops.
11	Al **EDWARDS** *WR*	5-8, 168	**Northwestern Louisiana**	Caught 94 career passes for 1,525 yards . . . In 1989 caught 37 for 502 yards . . . All-Southland Conference honorable mention in 1988 and All-American sprinter.

BILLS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	BILLS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	334	299
Rushing	136	117
Passing	177	156
Penalty	21	26
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	86/203	75/213
4th Down: Made/Atts.	4/8	7/15
TOTAL NET YARDS	5853	5046
Avg. Per Game	365.8	315.4
Total Plays	1045	1030
Avg. Per Play	5.6	4.9
NET YARDS RUSHING	2264	1840
Avg. Per Game	141.5	115.0
Total Rushes	532	484
NET YARDS PASSING	3589	3206
Avg. Per Game	224.3	200.4
Tackled/Yards Lost	35/242	38/289
Gross Yards	3831	3495
Attempts/Completions	478/281	508/255
Pct. of Completions	58.8	50.2
Had Intercepted	20	23
PUNTS/AVERAGE	67/38.3	75/38.3
NET PUNTING AVG.	32.2	32.1
PENALTIES/YARDS	103/831	87/616
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	30/21	31/13
TOUCHDOWNS	49	34
Rushing	15	15
Passing	32	14
Returns	2	5

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
BILLS	59	117	92	135	6	409
OPP. TOTAL	62	44	88	123	0	317

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Norwood	0-0	5-6	8-9	10-15	0-0	23-30

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Thomas	298	1244	4.2	38	6
Kinnebrew	131	533	4.1	25	6
K. Davis	29	149	5.1	21	1

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Reed	88	1312	14.9	t78	9
Thomas	60	669	11.2	t74	6
Harmon	29	363	12.5	t42	4
Johnson	25	303	12.1	36	1
McKeller	20	341	17.1	t39	2

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Kelso	6	101	16.8	43	0
Odomes	5	20	4.0	13	0
L. Smith	2	46	23.0	24	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Kidd	65	2564	39.4	9	15	60	2

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Sutton	26	9	231	8.9	26	0
Tucker	6	3	63	10.5	14	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Harmon	18	409	22.7	49	0
Beebe	16	353	22.1	85	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Kelly	391	228	3130	58.3	8.01	25	6.4	18	4.6	t78	30/216	86.2
Reich	87	53	701	60.9	8.06	7	8.0	2	2.3	t63	4/24	103.7

unit in the AFC.

Defensive end Bruce Smith led the way with 13 sacks to earn his third consecutive Pro Bowl invitation. But more than half of his sacks (seven) came against three teams, raising questions about his game-to-game consistency.

Levy is banking that third-year pro Jeff Wright can step in for the departed Fred Smerlas and that Leon Seals can replace Art Still, who was released following the season. Still's departure was filled with acrimony. Before leaving, he complained about Levy's ineffective rotation system on the line and accused the coach of having different standards for stars such as Smith and Cornelius Bennett.

Injuries were especially damaging at linebacker where Shane Conlan and Bennett missed 11 games between them. Reserve Scott Radecic did an admirable job filling in for Conlan, Bennett and Ray Bentley (who missed the regular-season finale and the playoff game). The team's super sub wound up starting 13 games and played three different linebacking positions during the season.

Even when Bennett was healthy, he came under fire. He finished with 5.5 sacks, but two of those were against the hapless Jets and their patchwork offensive line in the regular-season finale.

For the first time, fans, reporters and even some Bills players and officials wondered if Buffalo had parted with too much when it traded Greg Bell and the rights to two first-round and one second-round draft picks to acquire Bennett from Indianapolis two Halloweens ago.

"He just doesn't seem like the same player who was All-World as a rookie," said one veteran Bill. "He has so much talent, but he doesn't seem to be willing to work at improving his game. He acts like he knows it all, and if you watch him play, you can tell that he doesn't."

No one questions Darryl Talley's work habits. The seventh-year outside linebacker was easily the Bills most consistent defensive player. Many in the organization thought it was an outrage when Talley didn't make the Pro Bowl.

"He deserved to go much more than I did," said Conlan. "Cornelius and I get a lot of the ink, but Darryl's every bit as good."

Injuries also decimated the secondary. Cornerback Derrick Burroughs suffered temporary paralysis while making a tackle during Week III against Houston and was forced to retire because of a neck abnormality. Kirby Jackson did a commendable job filling in, but there was a drop-off.

Nate Odomes, the left cornerback, had the best season of his career. He finished with career highs for interceptions (5) and tackles, and just missed a Pro Bowl invite. Free safety Mark Kelso led the team with six interceptions, but some questioned his range and his durability.

Strong safety Leonard Smith remains strong against the run, but his pass coverage leaves something to be desired.

Second-year safety John Hagy bounced back from knee surgery and provided some big hits, and Mickey Sutton gave Buffalo depth in passing situations.

The Bills again led the league in kickoff coverage, although a blown assignment in the playoff game allowed Eric Metcalf to return a kick 90 yards for a touchdown. Scott Norwood remained one of the league's most accurate kickers, hitting 77 percent of his field goal attempts. However, his shallow kickoffs remain a sore spot with Levy, so expect Norwood to receive a stiff challenge during training camp.

The Bills also will be in the market for a new punter. John Kidd was left unprotected and wound up signing with the San Diego Chargers. The Bills signed former Eagle punter Rick Tuten to replace Kidd.

Cornelius Bennett hopes 1990 is a better year. RICK STEWART / ALLSPORT

Levy lists improving the pass rush and the the team's turnover ratio (they were a minus-five last year) as priorities. But restoring locker room tranquility may be his biggest concern.

"All teams have controversies," he said. "But last year we had more than most. We are taking steps to make sure certain things don't recur."

The Bills find themselves at a crossroads. They have 10 starters 30 years or older. Another underachieving season, and they may find themselves rebuilding instead of contending.❑

MIAMI DOLPHINS

SHULA'S THINKING OF PLAYOFFS AGAIN

BY LEO SUAREZ

His star quarterback has asked to be traded. His offensive line has been decimated by injuries and Plan B signings. His defense has just four starters it can count on for the future, and his team played its way out of the playoffs by losing four of its last five games in 1989.

Despite all of this, Don Shula remains ever the optimist. After signing a three-year contract worth $1.3 million a year, Shula is confident that this will be the year the Dolphins' return to the playoffs.

"I do feel better about this team than I did a year ago," Shula said. "I feel we accomplished some of the goals we set out to accomplish in 1989 and, although the season didn't turn out like I thought, there is promise."

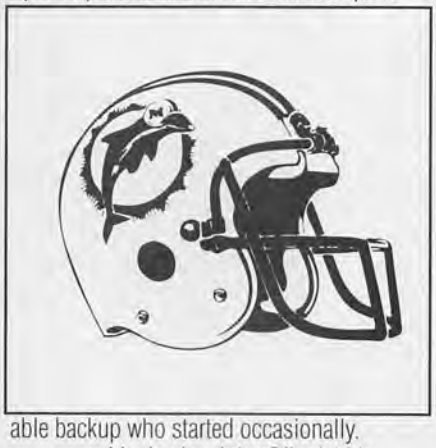
Two factors that contribute to Shula's optimism are the addition of another wild card team to the playoff system and the groundwork laid by the 1989 team. The Dolphins were sitting atop the AFC East with a 7-4 record before collapsing in the final five weeks of the season.

"I feel we accomplished some of the goals we set out for, so there is promise for the future," Shula said. "I felt there were players who wanted to stand up and be counted on to win, but there just weren't enough of them. The only thing acceptable at the end of the season is to make the playoffs. The bottom line is we didn't accomplish that last year, but we hope to do so this year."

If Shula does guide the Dolphins into the playoffs, it will be the finest coaching job in his 27-year career. For this year, the Dolphins are a team in turmoil and transition. Consider:

• Dolphins' quarterback Dan Marino has diplomatically indicated that he would like to play for a playoff team and would accept a trade.

• The Dolphins lost Plan B offensive linemen Ronnie Lee (Atlanta), Greg Johnson (Dallas), Louis Cheeks (Dallas) and Tom Toth (San Diego). Lee, a 12th year veteran, started 15 games for the Dolphins last year. Cheeks and Johnson did not play up to expectations, but Toth was a dependable backup who started occasionally.



• Linebacker John Offerdahl is coming off of a shoulder injury he suffered during the Pro Bowl.

• Dolphins' starting cornerback Paul Lankford is in the twilight of his career as are linebackers Hugh Green and E.J. Junior.

• The Dolphins' secondary will have to also replace veteran William Judson, who started 104 games for Miami, but was left unprotected and signed with Detroit.

Shula might be feeling better about the 1990 Dolphins, but he is still trying to solve the same problems that have kept Miami out of the playoffs since 1985. On defense, the Dolphins still have trouble stopping the run (25th in the league). On offense, the Dolphins are still searching for a running game to complement the passing of quarterback Dan Marino. Even with the addition of rookie running back Sammie Smith, Miami's running offense ranked 27th out of 28 NFL teams.

The Dolphins enter the '90s trying to rebuild the team's offensive line and most of the defense. The defense has a good nucleus in end Jeff Cross, Offerdahl and safeties Jarvis Williams and Louis Oliver. None of the other seven starters on defense, however, can claim job security.

Linebackers Junior, Green, Barry Krauss and newly acquired Cliff Odom are crafty veterans who no longer possess the speed of their youth. Nose tackle Brian Sochia is steady, but end T.J. Turner has not been the dominating player the Dolphins had hoped for.

"We felt Jeff Cross came a long way and helped us put pressure on the quarterback, but we need more of that," Shula said. "You look at the good teams in the league, and they all have a dominant pass rusher."

In an effort to improve its linebacking corps, Miami signed three Plan B linebackers. Odom, who played with Krauss and for Dolphins' assistant George Hill in Indianapolis, is expected to provide stability.

Mike Reichenbach, who played in the Eagles' 46 defense, and Stacy Harvey of Kansas City both impressed Shula when their teams played the Dolphins.

"We feel all three linebackers can compete and upgrade the position," Shula said. "Its hard to say who gets the best of this Plan B deal until you read the performance charts during the season, but right now we are happy with some of the guys we got."

Miami lost 11 players during the Plan B signing period — second only to to the New England Patriots, who lost 17 players. Miami has retaliated by signing 15 players.

"We look at this as having lost 11 players but getting 15 good athletes in return," said Monte Clark, the Dolphins' director of pro scouting. "We signed these guys for a reason and, under the right scenario, they could all end up contributing to the team. We didn't sign them just to pile up bodies."

The Dolphins are hoping Plan B will provide them with two good cornerbacks to take over for Lankford and Judson. Miami signed Plan B cornerbacks Donnie Elder (Tampa Bay), Kerry Glenn (Jets) and Stevon Moore (Jets).

The Dolphins believe they outsmarted the Jets by signing Moore, who is coming off knee surgery. The Jets had hoped the injury would keep teams from signing Moore. "I'm excited about this guy," Clark said. "We got some good inside information that his rehab went really well. We took a risk on the injury, but we think he got a good repair job and he could help us."

Maybe Moore can help the Dolphins improve their lousy turnover ratio. The Dolphins had a negative 18 turnover ratio (23 takeaways and 41 giveaways). "You just can't expect to be a playoff contender and give away the ball as much as we did and get it back as little as we did," Shula said. "It's a glaring stat. It tells a lot about our problems."

Much of Miami's problems on offense can be traced to the decline of the Dolphins' offensive line. For the past three seasons, offensive line coach John Sandusky has been juggling a patchwork line that was playing above its ability. Last season it didn't, and it showed in Marino's performance on the field.

Sammie Smith gives the Miami running attack some much-needed punch. ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

The Buffalo Bills' Jeff Wright snapped the Dolphins' streak of 19 games without allowing a sack in the eighth game of the season. Marino was sacked 10 times in the second half of the season, and he also had the lowest quarterback rating of his career (76.9) in 1989.

"There's no question, we need a dominating player up front," Shula said. "We need a take charge guy to anchor the line."

With Lee, Toth, Johnson, and Cheek gone and veteran Jon Giesler retiring, Miami is left with guards Roy Foster and Harry Galbreath, tackle Jeff Dellenbach and center Jeff Ulenhake as the only players with experience on the Dolphins' line. The Dolphins signed tackles Tony Brown (6'5", 285 lbs.) and Dave Popp (6'5", 282 lbs.) for depth. Brown played sparingly for Buffalo and Popp for the Giants.

"Both of them competed well with the teams they were with," Shula said. "They are big and strong and have the ability to help us."

Much of Marino's decline can be attributed to a poor running game which allows defenses to key on stopping receivers Mark Clayton, Mark Duper, Fred Banks and Jim Jensen. Even with rookie running back Sammie Smith gaining 659 yards last season, Miami could manage only a 3.3 yards per carry average while allowing opponents an average of 4.4 yards a run. Halfback Troy Stradford gained just 240 yards and fullback Marc Logan added 201 to the Dolphins' anemic running attack.

"It's no secret we have to run the ball to be successful," Marino said. "You can't pass on every down and be a playoff contender."

Mark Clayton is still a prime catch for Miami. ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

Said Shula: "Sammie Smith showed signs of being the runner who's going to help us be a more productive run offense. Although he didn't break the big one, you can see it's going to happen."

Regardless of how poor the running game is, the chances of Shula granting Marino's request for a trade are highly unlikely. The Dolphins' asking price would probably dismantle any team interested in a trade.

"We are going to do what is best for the team," Shula said. "But I have no intentions of trading Dan Marino."

Marino confirmed he had asked for a trade and that he would be interested in playing for the Los Angeles Raiders. But that's all the quarterback would say. Marino's frustration with the running game and with receivers who ran the wrong routes reached its peak last season.

However, had it not been for the performance of the Dolphins' receivers, Miami's season might have been a total disappointment. Mark Clayton (64 receptions for 1,011 yards and nine touchdowns) had another solid season. Veterans Fred Banks (30 catches, 520 yards) and Jim Jensen (61 receptions, 557 yards) had the best years of their careers.

Jensen was once again the Dolphins' most reliable receiver on third down. Jensen has touched the ball 64 times on third downs in his career and picked up a first down 52 times (81 percent).

It's no coincidence that the Dolphins were the best team in the NFL on third down conversions. Miami converted first downs on 48.3 percent of its third down plays.

The Dolphins, however, are starting to show signs of aging at the wide receiver position. Veteran Mark Duper had a good year with 717 yards on 49 catches, but it was a disappointing season by Duper's standards. Duper's 14.6 yards per catch average was the lowest of his career, and he has caught only two touchdowns in the past two seasons.

Shula is hoping tight end Ferrell Edmunds will blossom into another Kellen Winslow as many experts have predicted. Edmunds caught 33 passes for 575 yards as a rookie, but those totals dropped to 32 receptions for 382 yards last year.

With veteran Bruce Hardy's career close to being over, the Dolphins need Edmunds to pick up the slack in 1990. Hardy played just three games in 1989 and is not expected to play a major role this season.

"We definitely need more production out of Ferrell," Shula said. "We are looking for more consistency."

Consistency is also what Shula is looking for in his special teams. Punter Reggie Roby's 42.4 average was the lowest of his career and rookie kicker Pete Stoyanovich was mediocre, finishing 14th in the NFL in scoring with 95 points. He was successful on 19 of 26 field goals, including a 59-yarder against the New York Jets that was the third longest in NFL history.

"We feel we have a good kicker and punter in Reggie and Pete," Shula said. "I'd just want them to be more consistent."

The Dolphins as a team were anything but in 1989 and will need to play more consistently if they are to challenge the Buffalo Bills for the Eastern Division title. Miami got off to a 1-3 start last year and bounced back to lead the division with a 7-4 record before losing four out of the last five games.

"That was a real disappointment," Shula said. "The bottom line is we didn't turn this thing around like I thought we would."

Shula says the team to beat in the East will be the Buffalo Bills again. Miami came close to knocking off the Bills in the season opener last year - losing 27-24 on the last play of the game when quarterback Jim Kelly scored on a draw. Miami later lost at Buffalo 31-17.

"The opener was a real heartbreaker because we let the lead slip away," Shula said. "The game really hurt us because we blew an 11-point lead and it could have been a great jumping off place for the beginning of the season. Instead it was a bitter disappointment. But I do feel better about this team and hope we develop the mental and physical toughness to get back in the playoffs."❑

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
86	**Banks**, Fred	WR	5-10	180	5	Liberty
66	**Batiste**, Dana	LB	6-0	238	1	Texas A&M
97	**Bosa**, John	DE	6-4	270	4	Boston College
82	**Brown**, Andre	WR	6-3	210	2	Miami (FL)
37	**Brown**, J.B.	CB	6-0	192	2	Maryland
59	**Brudzinski**, Bob	LB	6-4	235	14	Ohio State
51	**Clark**, Greg	LB	6-1	234	3	Arizona State
83	**Clayton**, Mark	WR	5-9	184	8	Louisville
91	**Cross**, Jeff	DE	6-4	270	3	Missouri
65	**Dellenbach**, Jeff	T-C	6-6	282	6	Wisconsin
74	**Dennis**, Mark	T	6-6	290	4	Illinois
85	**Duper**, Mark	WR	5-9	190	9	Northwestern Louisiana State
80	**Edmunds**, Ferrell	TE	6-6	252	3	Maryland
FA	**Elder**, Donnie	CB	5-9	175	5	Memphis State
FA	**Faulkner**, Jeff	DE	6-3	270	1	Southern
61	**Foster**, Roy	G	6-4	277	9	Southern California
62	**Galbreath**, Harry	G-C	6-1	275	3	Tennessee
79	**Giesler**, Jon	T	6-5	275	11	Michigan
FA	**Glenn**, Kerry	CB	5-9	175	4	Minnesota
99	**Graf**, Rick	LB	6-5	249	4	Wisconsin
41	**Grant**, African	S	6-0	200	1	Illinois
55	**Green**, Hugh	LB	6-2	228	10	Pittsburgh
92	**Griggs**, David	LB	6-3	239	2	Virginia
84	**Hardy**, Bruce	TE	6-4	236	11	Arizona State
FA	**Harris**, Walter	DE	6-3	277	1	Indiana
FA	**Harvey**, Stacy	LB	6-4	245	2	Arizona State
FA	**Healy**, Tim	FB	6-0	226	1	Delaware
FA	**Higgs**, Mark	RB	5-7	188	3	Kentucky
FA	**Highsmith**, Fred	RB	6-2	220	1	Miami (FL)
29	**Hobley**, Liffort	S	6-0	202	5	Louisiana State
11	**Jensen**, Jim	WR-RB	6-4	224	10	Boston University
54	**Junior**, E.J.	LB	6-3	242	10	Alabama
88	**Kinchen**, Brian	TE	6-2	232	3	Louisiana State

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
58	**Krauss**, Barry	LB	6-3	260	12	Alabama
90	**Kumerow**, Eric	DE	6-7	268	3	Ohio State
44	**Lankford**, Paul	CB	6-1	190	9	Penn State
	Limbrick, Garrett	FB	6-2	235	1	Oklahoma State
20	**Logan**, Marc	FB	5-11	220	4	Kentucky
13	**Marino**, Dan	QB	6-4	224	8	Pittsburgh
89	**Martin**, Tony	WR	6-0	174	1	Mesa CO
FA	**McGruder**, Michael	CB	5-11	180	1	Kent State
28	**McNeal**, Don	CB	6-0	195	10	Alabama
FA	**Moore**, Stevon	CB	5-11	205	1	Mississippi
FA	**Odom**, Cliff	LB	6-2	251	10	Texas Arlington
56	**Offerdahl**, John	LB	6-3	240	5	Western Michigan
25	**Oliver**, Louis	S	6-2	226	2	Florida
FA	**Paige**, Tony	FB	5-10	235	7	Virginia Tech
FA	**Popp**, Dave	T	6-5	285	1	Eastern Illinois
FA	**Reed**, Curt	WR	6-3	210	R	Millikin
FA	**Reichenbach**, Mike	LB	6-2	235	7	East Stroudsburg
4	**Roby**, Reggie	P	6-2	246	8	Iowa
FA	**Roth**, Jeff	NT	6-3	258	1	Florida
81	**Schwedes**, Scott	WR-KR	6-0	182	4	Syracuse
FA	**Searels**, Stacy	G-C	6-5	280	1	Auburn
9	**Secules**, Scott	QB	6-3	219	3	Virginia
33	**Smith**, Sammie	RB	6-2	226	2	Florida State
70	**Sochia**, Brian	NT	6-3	278	8	N.W. Oklahoma State
18	**Stoudt**, Cliff	QB	6-4	218	12	Youngstown State
10	**Stoyanovich**, Pete	K	5-10	180	2	Indiana
23	**Stradford**, Troy	RB	5-9	192	4	Boston College
24	**Thomas**, Rodney	CB	5-10	190	3	Brigham Young
95	**Turner**, T.J.	DE	6-4	280	5	Houston
63	**Uhlenhake**, Jeff	C	6-3	282	2	Ohio State
93	**Weidner**, Bert	NT	6-3	275	1	Kent State
26	**Williams**, Jarvis	S	5-11	198	3	Florida
FA	**Wilson**, Karl	DE	6-4	275	4	Louisiana State

DOLPHINS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Richmond **WEBB** *OG-T*	6-6, 291	**Texas A&M**	Outstanding drive blocking skills . . . Nicknamed "Bam Bam" by his teammates for the way he constantly punishes his defenders in the trenches . . . Extremely quick and agile player . . . Knows how to take advantage of his strength and long arms to lock into his opponents . . . Recently timed at 5.09 in the 40.
2	Keith **SIMS** *OG*	6-2, 310	**Iowa State**	Rising star who has the ability to dominate the action in the trenches . . . Moved to offensive guard from tackle to take advantage of his strength and pulling ability . . . Extremely powerful drive blocker . . . Was recently clocked at 5.24 in the 40 . . . Has a 30-inch vertical leap . . . In 1989 established himself as one of the best pulling guards in the nation.
3	Alfred **OGLESBY** *DT*	6-3, 271	**Houston**	Quick and aggressive tackler who possesses a great combination of balance, speed and stamina . . . Third team All-American and first team All-Southwest Conference . . . Led the team with 104 tackles (63 solos), 7 sacks and 14 stops for 69 yards in losses.
4	Scott **MITCHELL** *QB*	6-6, 231	**Utah**	Drop-back southpaw passer with a tremendously quick release . . . Holder of virtually every school game, season and career passing records in addition to holding ten NCAA and five Western Athletic Conference marks . . . Threw at least one scoring pass in his last 21 games . . . Ranks third on the NCAA Division I-A career list with 8,886 yards in total offense . . . Holds the school's all-time marks with 8,981 yards passing on 669 completions of 1,165 passes for 69 TDs.
5	Leroy **HOLT** *FB*	5-11, 236	**Southern California**	Outstanding short-yardage back with fine quickness and excellent blocking skills . . . Very tough up the middle . . . Ranks 15th on the Trojans' all-time rushing list with 1,778 yards, the most ever by a USC fullback . . . Voted the team's Most Inspirational Player for the third consecutive season . . . Carried 123 times for 619 yards with 4 TDs, the most yards by a USC fullback since Marcus Allen gained 649 yards in 1979 . . . Caught 28 passes for 269 yards and did not lose a yard rushing in 1989.
6	Sean **VANHORSE** *CB*	5-10, 178	**Howard University**	Very strong for a player his size . . . Bench presses over 350 pounds . . . Has 4.53 speed in the 40 . . . All-Mideastern Athletic Conference . . . Made 43 tackles (38 solos) . . . Led the team with 8 pass deflections and picked off 2 more . . . Returned 12 kickoffs for 284 yards (23.7 avg.) and had 2 punt returns.
8	Thomas **WOODS** *WR-RS*	5-10, 174	**Tennessee**	Ranks with the nation's premier all-purpose backs . . . Has 4.56 speed in the 40 . . . Holds the Vols' career record with 124 receptions . . . Started all year at split end, leading the team with 34 catches for 511 yards (15.0 avg.) and 2 TDs in 1989 . . . Returned 14 punts for 126 yards.
9	Phil **ROSS** *TE*	6-4, 221	**Oregon State**	Started every game in 1987, 1988 and 1989 . . . Had 36 catches for 415 yards in 1989 . . . Holds the school record with 153 receptions.
12	Bobby **HARDEN** *SS*	6-0, 192	**Miami**	Sure tackler with a fine combination of size, strength and speed . . . Timed at 4.6 in the 40 . . . Suffered an injury in the fourth game of the season, missing the balance of the season . . . Finished with 20 tackles (16 solos) . . . Deflected 2 passes and picked off another.

DOLPHINS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	DOLPHINS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	311	337
Rushing	88	139
Passing	202	180
Penalty	21	18
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	101/209	67/194
4th Down: Made/Atts.	7/14	8/21
TOTAL NET YARDS	5546	5696
Avg. Per Game	346.6	356.0
Total Plays	1011	1045
Avg. Per Play	5.5	5.5
NET YARDS RUSHING	1330	2153
Avg. Per Game	83.1	134.6
Total Rushes	400	493
NET YARDS PASSING	4216	3543
Avg. Per Game	263.5	221.4
Tackled/Yards Lost	10/86	39/268
Gross Yards	4302	3811
Attempts/Completions	601/331	513/315
Pct. of Completions	55.1	61.4
Had Intercepted	25	15
PUNTS/AVERAGE	59/41.7	62/39.0
NET PUNTING AVG.	35.3	31.6
PENALTIES/YARDS	83/614	106/831
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	30/16	19/8
TOUCHDOWNS	39	43
Rushing	10	19
Passing	26	21
Returns	3	3

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
DOLPHINS	78	96	73	81	3	331
OPP. TOTAL	57	128	77	117	0	379

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Stoyanovich	1-1	8-8	5-6	4-8	1-3	19-26

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Smith	200	659	3.3	25	6
Stradford	66	240	3.6	13	1
Logan	57	201	3.5	14	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Clayton	64	1011	15.8	t78	9
Jenson	61	557	9.1	20	6
Duper	49	717	14.6	41	1
Edmunds	32	382	11.9	30	3
Banks	30	520	17.3	61	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Oliver	4	32	8.0	23	0
McNeal	3	-6	-2.0	0	0
Williams	2	43	21.5	24	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Roby	59	2458	42.4	6	18	58	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Schwedes	18	3	210	11.7	t70	1
Stradford	14	5	129	9.2	19	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Logan	24	613	25.5	t97	1
Hampton	17	303	17.8	34	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Marino	550	308	3997	56.0	7.27	24	4.4	22	4.0	t78	10/86	76.9
Secules	50	22	286	44.0	5.72	1	2.0	3	6.0	t44	0/0	44.3

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

CAN MEYER GET COLTS OVER THE HUMP?

BY MIKE CHAPPELL

Since they reside smack dab at the Crossroads of America, it should come as no surprise that the Indianapolis Colts are rapidly approaching a crossroads of their own.

They're not there yet, but as Rod Serling pointed out, the signposts are up ahead.

Are they a serious contender in the AFC Eastern Division or the perennial pretender that taunts and teases before sliding back into the mediocre masses?

If 1990 isn't Indianapolis' fork in the road, it still must be considered a time for the franchise to quit straddling the middle of the highway.

A year ago, the Colts weaved their way to an 8-8 windup, their third straight non-losing season. And for a second year in a row, the franchise which won the AFC East in 1987 went into the final weekend of the season before seeing its playoff hopes dashed.

Not bad considering where the Colts had dwelt the previous nine years, firmly in the AFC East's second division, the winner of just 38 of 137 games (.277). And who can forget the horrors of 1986 when Indianapolis opened with a 13-game losing streak which cost Head Coach Rod Dowhower his job and ushered in new hope in the person of Ron Meyer?

"If you look at where they were when we came in here, there's no denying there has been tremendous improvement," noted Meyer, who led the Colts to three wins at the tail end of '86 and will take a 29-21 record — the best mark among AFC coaches over the last 50 games — into '90. "Believe me, that's encouraging."

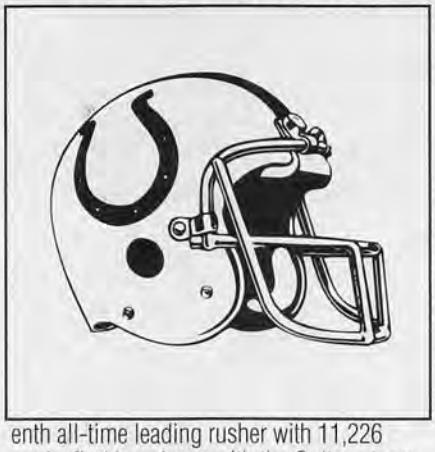
But any encouragement must carry a discouraging footnote: The Colts remain something of an NFL enigma. Good enough to contend, not good enough to complete the task.

"We've whetted everyone's appetite," Meyer acknowledged. "We're so close, but so far away."

How far? Good question.

Entering a new decade, Indianapolis must confront problems which simply refuse to solve themselves.

Can Eric Dickerson, the NFL's seventh all-time leading rusher with 11,226 yards, find happiness with the Colts, a team with which he says he does not want to play? He wrestled with physical (hamstring) and mental (burnout, retirement talk, contract extension) demons in 1989, and those battles extended well into the off-season.



Can the Colts avert their annual quarterback quandary? Chris Chandler, clearly Meyer's choice, emerged as the starter last year, but a knee injury in Week Three led to reconstructive surgery and the insertion of Jack Trudeau.

Can the offense as a whole generate much-needed consistency? The Colts were no better than 23rd in the league, ranking 24th in passing, 17th in rushing (despite Dickerson's presence) and 25th in time of possession.

"Offensively, we were inconsistent and that obviously hurt us," said Trudeau. "A combination of things resulted in us losing some games we should have won."

That combination spilled over onto the defensive side of the ball. Another area, more questions.

Is there more life in an aging line? Is the linebacking corps as good as advertised? Is the secondary as porous as it appears?

Stay tuned.

If there is a priority for Meyer and General Manager Jim Irsay bumping the Colts onto the next competitive plateau, it clearly rests with the offense.

"We have to be better," said Trudeau.

Which means that the Colts have to get more mileage out of an offensive line that's not getting any younger and not exactly coming off of one of its better years.

Chris Hinton earned a fifth Pro Bowl appearance and was rock-solid at left tackle. However, 11-year veteran center Ray Donaldson, who made it to the Pro Bowl for a fourth straight year, right tackle Kevin Call and guards Ben Utt and Randy Dixon all rode a roller-coaster through 1989. So unhappy were the Colts with the 31-year-old Utt that they left the veteran of 95 starts unprotected under Plan B.

The line's pass protection was formidable — it allowed 28 sacks, tied for fourth fewest in the league. But a franchise which had prided itself on running the football saw its totals dip from 140.6 yards per game in 1987 to 115.8 a year ago. Dickerson was the most notable casualty, as 163 of his 314 carries (52 percent) went for three yards or less. He was buried behind the line 28 times and averaged a career-low 4.18 yards per carry.

Said Hinton, "It's easy to say the line's not blocking, but there is a lot more to it than that. All it takes is one breakdown. Five guys may be throwing hellacious blocks, but my guy might beat me and that's

Chip Banks needs a solid year for the Colts to contend.

ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

all it takes."

A spin-off of the inconsistent line play was spasmodic possessions. The Colts converted only 34 percent of their third downs and a staggering 110 of their 183 possessions (.601) netted one first down or less.

Complicating the offense is the fact that another quarterback challenge looms with Chandler on the mend and Trudeau on the brink. All things being equal, Chandler figures to be the man.

"We have to establish solidity at quarterback," insisted Meyer. "I thought we had done that last year until Chandler went down in the third game. I'm anxious to see Chris come back and compete and hopefully regain his old form and help move us into the upper echelon. But I know Jack will battle him."

It's a battle Trudeau figures will be uphill all the way. He realizes Meyer and the Colt organization have fallen in love with Chandler's athleticism.

"I'm frustrated about that because I think I played pretty well last year," said Trudeau. "Every year it comes down to this, and every year it hurts us in getting a good start. When there's an open job at quarterback, it hurts you. You can't get yourself ready to play, you're too worried about beating someone out. It's very frustrating for me. It needs to be addressed. It's a central issue, to be sure."

Both Chandler and Trudeau have shown the ability to provide leadership.

As a rookie in '88, Chandler stepped in when injuries felled Trudeau and Gary Hogeboom. He promptly led the Colts to a 9-4 record as a starter. Then, when Chandler suffered his knee injury during the third week last year, Trudeau took over, won seven of 12 starts and had Indianapolis knocking on the playoff door until a 41-6 blowout loss in the season finale at New Orleans.

"Whoever it is," Trudeau said of the starting QB, "he doesn't need to be worrying about looking over his shoulder. Things are tough enough as it is."

Once Meyer sorts out his quarterbacks, he can give full attention to a backfield which continues to fall short of its potential.

There's no questioning Dickerson's excellence, but the Colts, constantly criticized for letting Albert Bentley waste away, are once again tinkering with a two-back approach.

"Our personnel isn't set up to where you'll see the halfback-fullback look," said Trudeau. "The problem is we've got to play Albert."

Prior to Dickerson's arrival, Bentley carried the load for the Colts. But after combining for 1,078 run-pass yards in 1987, his totals skidded to 482 yards in '88 as the focus shifted heavily to Dickerson. Meyer and his staff increased Bentley's usage last year — he rushed for just 299 yards but had a career-high 52 receptions for 525 yards as the team's H-back — and will further magnify it in '90.

"Albert Bentley was on the field 100 less plays than Eric last year," Meyer noted. "We'll expand that (role) this year."

Aiding the running game's rejuvenation will be a wide receiver fleet which is swift and talented. What used to be Bill Brooks' domain has grown to encompass the likes of Andre Rison and Clarence Verdin. Brooks had his usual workmanlike season in '89 (63 receptions, 919 yards, 4 TDs) while Rison flashed his vast promise with 52

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
97	**Alston**, O'Brien	LB	6-6	251	3	Maryland
79	**Armstrong**, Harvey	NT	6-3	282	8	Southern Methodist
62	**Baldinger**, Brian	OG	6-4	272	8	Duke
31	**Ball**, Michael	DB	6-0	217	3	Southern
51	**Banks**, Chip	LB	6-4	245	8	Southern Cal
36	**Baylor**, John	DB	6-0	203	2	Southern Mississippi
81	**Beach**, Pat	TE	6-4	252	8	Washington State
95	**Benson**, Mitchell	DT	6-3	302	2	Texas Christian
20	**Bentley**, Albert	RB	5-11	214	6	Miami
4	**Biasucci**, Dean	K	6-0	189	6	Western Carolina
50	**Bickett**, Duane	LB	6-5	251	6	Southern Cal
80	**Brooks**, Bill	WR	6-0	185	5	Boston University
71	**Call**, Kevin	OT	6-7	308	7	Colorado State
17	**Chandler**, Chris	QB	6-4	218	3	Washington
76	**Clancy**, Sam	DE	6-7	284	7	Pittsburgh
38	**Daniel**, Eugene	CB	5-11	188	7	Louisiana State
29	**Dickerson**, Eric	RB	6-3	224	8	Southern Methodist
69	**Dixon**, Randy	OT	6-3	302	4	Pittsburgh
53	**Donaldson**, Ray	C	6-3	292	11	Georgia
67	**Eisenhooth**, Stan	OL	6-5	290	3	Towson State
37	**Goode**, Chris	DB	6-0	195	4	Alabama
78	**Hand**, Jon	DE	6-7	301	5	Alabama
54	**Herrod**, Jeff	LB	6-0	246	3	Mississippi
75	**Hinton**, Chris	OT	6-4	300	8	Northwestern
45	**Hunter**, Ivy Joe	RB	6-0	237	2	Kentucky
63	**Knight**, Steve	OL	6-4	326	2	Tennessee
59	**Larson**, Kurt	LB	6-4	236	2	Michigan State
96	**McDonald**, Quintus	LB	6-3	240	2	Penn State
73	**Moss**, Zefross	OL	6-6	315	2	Alabama State
39	**Prior**, Mike	DB	6-0	210	5	Illinois State
86	**Pruitt**, James	WR	6-3	201	5	Cal State-Fullerton
14	**Ramsey**, Tom	QB	6-1	185	6	UCLA
85	**Rison**, Andre	WR	6-0	191	2	Michigan State
3	**Stark**, Rohn	P	6-3	203	9	Florida State
27	**Taylor**, Keith	DB	5-11	206	3	Illinois
99	**Thompson**, Donnell	DE	6-4	280	10	North Carolina
68	**Tomberlin**, Pat	OT	6-2	312	1	Florida State
10	**Trudeau**, Jack	QB	6-3	219	5	Illinois
83	**Verdin**, Clarence	WR	5-8	170	5	Southwestern Louisiana
56	**Young**, Fredd	LB	6-1	235	7	New Mexico State

COLTS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Jeff **GEORGE** *QB*	6-4, 221	**Illinois**	Despite only two years at Illinois, ranks third on the school's career passing chart with 4,674 yards, surpassed only by Tony Eason and Jack Trudeau . . . Led the Big Ten in total offense, averaging 205.6 yards per game . . . Completed 216 of 348 passes (62.1%) for 2,417 yards in 1989 . . . His 19 TD tosses was one shy of Eason's school record.
2	Anthony **JOHNSON** *FB*	6-0, 216	**Notre Dame**	Bruising inside runner and effective receiver who excels as a blocker . . . Recently timed at 4.77 in the 40 . . . Third on the team in rushing with 515 yards on 131 carries in 1989 . . . Led the team in scoring with 78 points, rushing for 11 TDs.
4	Bill **SCHULTZ** *OT*	6-5, 289	**Southern California**	Versatile blocker who can play either guard or tackle . . . Drops back quickly and slides his feet well in pass blocking . . . Dominant run blocker with fine mobility and range . . . Bench presses over 400 pounds.
4	Stacey **SIMMONS** *WR*	5-9, 183	**Florida**	Outstanding deep threat with world-class speed . . . Made a rapid recovery from a knee injury that sidelined him most of the 1988 season . . . Recently timed at 4.33 in the 40 . . . Started nine games in 1989, catching 10 passes for 166 yards (16.6 avg.) and 1 TD . . . Returned 8 kickoffs for 178 yards (22.3 avg.) and 11 punts for 27 yards.
4	Alan **GRANT** *CB*	5-10, 187	**Stanford**	One of the top defensive backs in the Pac-10 Conference . . . Recorded 167 career tackles . . . Holds school records with 93 punt returns for 894 yards.
4	Pat **CUNNINGHAM** *DE*	6-7, 290	**Texas A&M**	Physical player who moved from offensive tackle to defensive end . . . Is a good pass rusher . . . Has good speed and fundamentals . . . Huge frame makes him a large obstacle to opposing quarterbacks.
6	Tony **WALKER** *LB*	6-3, 240	**Southeast Missouri State**	First team Division II All-American selection by Football Gazette . . . Runnerup for MVP honors in King All-American Classic . . . Played defensive tackle his senior season . . . Has 4.44 speed in the 40 . . . Had 83 tackles last season and 7 quarterback sacks for 80 yards in losses.
7	James **SINGLETARY** *DE*	6-3, 227	**East Carolina**	Has all the tools to be an outstanding outside linebacker . . . Coaches awarded him Most Outstanding Defensive End during spring practice but was ineligible and did not play in 1989 . . . Started eight games in 1988 splitting his time between inside linebacker and defensive end.
8	Ken **CLARK** *FB*	5-9, 203	**Nebraska**	Ranks second on the school's all-time rushing list with 3,037 yards . . . Ranked 11th in the nation in rushing, averaging 119.6 yards per game . . . Became the fourth player in school history to run for over 1,000 yards in two straight seasons . . . Carried 198 times for 1,196 yards (6.0 avg.) and 12 TDs, the seventh best season total in school history.
8	Harvey **WILSON** *DB*	6-1, 188	**Southern University**	Played in all 11 games last season and finished tied for third on the team with 74 tackles (28 solos) . . . Had 4 interceptions, 4 pass deflections and 3 fumble recoveries.
9	Darvell **HUFFMAN** *WR*	5-8, 156	**Boston University**	Ranks third on the school all-time list with 148 receptions for 1,799 yards . . . Ranks second on the school's career chart with 21 TD catches . . . In 1989 caught 11 TD passes, the second highest season total in school history . . . Ranked eighth in the nation in receiving, averaging 6.09 catches per game.
11	Carnel **SMITH** *DE*	6-2, 263	**Pittsburgh**	Started 28 of the last 34 games at Pitt, including 22 straight during the last two seasons . . . Had 160 career tackles (93 solos), 13 sacks and 33 tackles for losses . . . Named second team AP All-East.
12	Gene **BENHART** *QB*	6-5, 207	**Western Illinois**	Appeared in six games this year, completing 95 of 193 passes for 1,297 yards and 7 TDs before suffering a season-ending hip injury against Northern Iowa.
12	Dean **BROWN** *OL*	6-3, 292	**Notre Dame**	Two year starter who helped Irish average 287.7 rushing yards per game . . . Compiled club best 295 minutes played.

receptions, 820 yards and selection to most All-Rookie teams.

While the offense had trouble moving the ball on occasion, the defense found it difficult to produce the stopper when the situation warranted.

Need proof? How about a 23-20 overtime loss at home to New England when the Patriots converted a third-and-14 from their own 4 and then drove to a game-winning 51-yard field goal? Or how about a 22-16 loss to the Pats in Foxboro when New England's winning drive got under way when it converted a third-and-21?

"Obviously, we were not good enough in all areas," Meyer admitted.

The biggest area of concern is the secondary. In 1988, the Colts established club records as opponents attempted 539 passes and completed 321. In 1989, those numbers increased to 556 and 322.

Duane Bickett is ready for another banner year. ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

Free safety Mike Prior, who has played every defensive down for two straight years, remains the steadiest force. He's light of build (6'1", 210 lbs.) but strong of heart. Strong safety Michael Ball offers crunch on run-support but needs to improve his coverage skills.

On the corners, Eugene Daniel is coming off of a satisfactory year on the right side, but the left side is up for grabs. Chris Goode, who drew eight starts there, and John Baylor, who picked up the remaining starts, including the last six, are the primary candidates.

One of the area's shining stars in '89 proved to be nickel back Keith Taylor. He snared seven of the team's 21 interceptions, carried one for a score (against Buffalo 80 yards), and set a club record with 225 yards on interception returns.

That the secondary struggled again in '89 was something of a surprise considering the output of the team's aging front. Jon Hand produced a career-high 10 sacks, designated pass rusher Ezra Johnson had 8.5 and Donnell Thompson another seven as the Colts boosted their quarterback sacks from 30 in '88 to 46.

Hand, the fourth player chosen in the 1986 draft, is on top of his game and deserved Pro Bowl attention a year ago when he complemented his 10 sacks with 85 tackles, 4 forced fumbles and 7 QB pressures. Thompson, meanwhile, was third on the team in tackles in '89 and shows no signs of wearing down at age 31.

If the Colts can't find some help at nose tackle in the off-season, 30-year-old Harvey Armstrong, who was efficient last year, will reclaim his spot.

Shaky in the secondary and sturdy up front, Indianapolis' defense will forever revolve around its linebackers. That's where blue chippers Duane Bickett and Jeff Herrod roam.

Bickett, who patrols at right end, had a squeaky-clean tour through '89 (100 tackles, 8 sacks, 11 QB pressures). Herrod played like anything but a ninth-round draft pick, leading the Colts with 154 tackles.

That group could raise itself a couple of notches if Fredd Young, who has yet to prove he was worth the two No. 1 draft picks the Colts spent for him in '88, and Chip Banks regain their past forms.

"I think we're an extremely good football team," Meyer said. "We're not as far off as people think. But neither do we have all the answers."

"Saying we're at a crossroads may be a strong statement, but I think we've got to do better than we did last year because of the talent we've got," Trudeau said. "The bottom line is, last year when we were good, we were pretty good. But at times we were exceptionally bad.

"We're close, but there have been a lot of frustrations. If we had been 5-11 the last few years, that would have really been frustrating. But we know if we had won a game or two last year, we would have been in the show.

"There is no need for wholesale panic," Trudeau went on. "We're a good team, there's no question about that."❑

COLTS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	COLTS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	273	336
Rushing	118	126
Passing	140	192
Penalty	15	18
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	72/211	95/220
4th Down: Made/Atts.	7/16	4/10
TOTAL NET YARDS	4813	5611
Avg. Per Game	300.8	350.7
Total Plays	979	1109
Avg. Per Play	4.9	5.1
NET YARDS RUSHING	1853	2077
Avg. Per Game	115.8	129.8
Total Rushes	458	507
NET YARDS PASSING	2960	3534
Avg. Per Game	185.0	220.9
Tackled/Yards Lost	28/174	46/384
Gross Yards	3134	3918
Attempts/Completions	493/253	556/322
Pct. of Completions	51.3	57.9
Had Intercepted	17	21
PUNTS/AVERAGE	80/42.4	65/41.6
NET PUNTING AVG.	32.9	34.5
PENALTIES/YARDS	89/704	103/772
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	33/10	34/15
TOUCHDOWNS	34	29
Rushing	11	10
Passing	18	15
Returns	5	4

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
COLTS	53	66	53	120	6	298
OPP. TOTAL	67	82	58	91	3	301

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Biasucci	2-2	6-6	9-10	3-5	1-4	21-27

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Dickerson	314	1311	4.2	t21	7
Bentley	75	299	4.0	22	1
Trudeau	35	91	2.6	17	2

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Brooks	63	919	14.6	t55	4
Rison	52	820	15.8	61	4
Bentley	52	525	10.1	61	3
Dickerson	30	211	7.0	22	1
Verdin	20	381	19.1	t82	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Taylor	7	225	32.1	t80	1
Prior	6	88	14.7	t58	1
Banks	2	13	6.5	11	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Stark	79	3392	42.9	10	14	64	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Verdin	23	5	296	12.9	t49	1
Rison	2	2	20	10.0	12	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Verdin	19	371	19.5	29	0
Bentley	17	328	19.3	29	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Trudeau	362	190	2317	52.5	6.40	15	4.1	13	3.6	71	20/125	71.3
Chandler	80	39	537	48.8	6.71	2	2.5	3	3.8	t82	3/17	63.4

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

MORE UNHAPPY WEEKENDS IN NEW ENGLAND?

BY RON BORGES

The symbol of what went on with the New England Patriots last season was right there in the stands at Sullivan Stadium week after disappointing week.

The owner of the team, Victor Kiam, who had paid roughly $80 million to purchase the Patriots a year earlier, was banned from entering the owner's box because of a dispute with two Boston real estate developers who purchased the stadium from the Sullivan family when Kiam refused to meet their asking price. So, there stood the owner in the stands, hot dog in hand, teeth chattering and head shaking just like everyone else's. Finally, he would be driven inside the press box by a vocal, but ever dwindling, number of fans by halftime of another dismal defeat.

When a team finishes 5-11, an owner needs a safe haven even when only 27,940 fans show up for the season finale at a stadium that seats over 64,000. But there was no safe hiding place last year for Kiam's Patriots, and none for the man who signed the checks, either.

For 30 years, the Sullivan family ran just this kind of slipshod operation, finally managing to go broke in a league that prints money nearly as quickly as the U.S. Mint, and thus far nothing seems to have changed under Kiam.

Game after game, Kiam would watch in amazement as his coach, the quizzical Raymond Berry, would shuffle his quarterbacks from Tony Eason to Doug Flutie to veteran Steve Grogan to formerly unemployed Marc Wilson, asking all to try and run the Offense of the '80s (unfortunately, the 1880s) without success while his broken defense tried valiantly to hang on.

By season's end, it was clear that changes would have to be made, Berry's team had not reached the playoffs since 1986, and its record each year since New England's surprising arrival in the 1985 Super Bowl had grown consistently worse.

So, during the off-season, Berry agreed for the first time to add an offensive and a defensive coordinator this season rather than sticking with his group approach that no one had quite understood. And then, for reasons no one quite understands, Berry refused to do it.

As Kiam and general manager Pat

Sullivan waited, week after week passed once again with no changes until, on a brisk Monday morning in late February, Raymond Berry met with Sullivan for the last time.

When Berry left, he had been fired for "deep philosophical differences," according to Sullivan. But such was the state of things in New England that Berry would say of their meeting, "I had a very good meeting with Pat this afternoon. I thought it went real well and I thought we got everything clear."

Two hours before Berry spoke those words, what they had gotten clear was that Berry would be replaced by Pittsburgh Steelers' defensive coordinator Rod Rust, a New England assistant for five years before leaving in 1987. Because it had taken so long for Kiam and Sullivan to make a decision on Berry, Rust would have less than a week to build a new staff of his own before the league-imposed ban on movement of employed NFL coaches kicked in.

"I don't really understand how this came about myself," Berry said. "I was going along day by day and...This all comes as news to me. I don't think anybody could have predicted this happening."

Nobody except anybody who had watched the Patriots slide further and further out of playoff contention the past three years while their fans stayed farther and farther away from Sullivan Stadium.

Although the decision to make a change seemed sound for most in football, the timing of it seemed ridiculous.

"We're victims of their situation," said Pittsburgh Steelers president Dan Rooney, who had to scramble to find someone to replace Rust.

But to the good people of New England, the timing was to be expected.

So now Berry is gone and Eason is gone (released without the slightest bit of compensation last October) and highly respected player personnel director Dick Steinberg is gone (to run the New York Jets in part because of his power struggle with Berry) and Rust is here trying to rebuild a team that isn't even sure what went wrong.

"If it were a simple thing to fix, you could do it," said offensive tackle Bruce Armstrong. "But before you do that, you have to know what's wrong. And I'm not sure if anybody knows that."

At least one person thinks he does, however, and that person is Joe Mendes, the man who served as Steinberg's assistant for years before replacing him this spring.

"We're just not a very good team right now," Mendes admitted. "We've got some major rebuilding to do."

That process must start at quarterback, where Eason failed the Patriots after being their number 1 draft pick in 1983 and

an off-again, on-again starter for most of his time in New England.

Although Eason remains the only Patriot quarterback in history to win a playoff game, by the time his tenure ended last October, he was the most hated quarterback in the team's history as well. Eason was too often injured, too often sacked and, finally, too often hit with thunderous boos the moment he walked on the field.

When Berry named him the starter before training camp last season, he was finished before the year began because the public was split between the aging, but still effective, Grogan and the former Heisman Trophy winner Doug Flutie, who was the quintessential hometown boy who makes good after a brilliant career at Boston College.

But now who will replace Eason? Flutie was left unprotected this spring in the Plan B free agent market but had no takers after a dismal passing performance last season. No one believes either the aging, 37-year-old Grogan or the psychically-brittle Wilson are the answer.

So Mendes planned to look to the draft — where New England had the third pick — and thus the future, for his team's newest leader.

But, as Armstrong knows, quarterback is not the only problem.

Running back John Stephens came off his 1988 Rookie of the Year season needing a helmet two sizes bigger than the one he wore when he first arrived in Foxborough. Both he and his team paid for it last year.

His new attitude created problems with his teammates, the fans and in his personal life, problems that manifested themselves in a drop in production, from over 1200 rushing yards to 833 and a measly 3.4 yard per rush average.

Fullback Bob Perryman could still block, but he wasn't ever going to get rich — or make the Patriots rich — with his running style, so Berry found himself with no legs to rely on. With Stephens' power running inside and out on the decline, the running game Berry hoped to rely on was slowed until it was abandoned to the point where the Patriots were throwing nearly 40 times a game to a receiving corps no longer as strong as it once was.

Perhaps in a effort to remedy some of the problems with the running game, New England signed former New York Giants running back George Adams, a ex-No. 1 draft choice who gave the word "underachiever" new meaning in New York.

But the hope is that the burly Adams will push Stephens enough to motivate him while, perhaps, even motivating himself.

As for the corps of receivers, last year's No. 1 draft choice, Hart Lee Dykes, missed most of training camp, but showed enough flashes of brilliance to make some believe he may soon be ready to replace the aging Stanley Morgan. Morgan is a speed receiver who has grown long in the tooth, and his game was not aided by the broken leg he sustained during practice last year.

Yet even if Morgan's sprinter's legs begin to fade, the receivers are able enough with young Sammy Martin, tight end Eric Seivers (club-leading 54 receptions) and Irving Fryar, the former No. 1 draft choice, who still has explosive potential if he can get his off-the-field life in order.

The offensive line is sound, but no longer spectacular. It remains anchored by Armstrong at tackle and Sean Farrell at guard. But they must find a center to replace Mike Baab and expect to do it by moving starting tackle Danny Villa inside.

That leaves a hole at one end of the line that must be filled, but it is not the only one. The other guard spot is a tossup between Paul Fairchild and Ron Wooten, both of whom are coming off injuries themselves. If Rust could replace both it would be a booster shot for the entire unit.

Defensively, the picture is not as bleak as it might appear, in part because Rust squeezed out every ounce of playing ability from this defense when he was its coordinator.

In many ways, the Patriots' 1988 season ended in one quarter in August when New England lost three defensive starters for the season, including Pro Bowl players Andre Tippett and Garin Veris, a week before the season began. No defense could be expected to survive such a loss and the Patriots didn't, although they hung in defensively until finally collapsing with a month to go in the season.

Tippett, Veris and injured cornerback Ronnie Lippett are all expected to be back; and, if they are, Rust's defense will be vastly improved over the patchwork one of a year ago.

"People can't tell me we're not a good team," said safety Roland James. "We'll be a lot better team when the people that were out come back."

Patriot fans hope John Stephens returns to his 1988 form. OTTO GREULE, JR. / ALLSPORT

Perhaps so, but Veris' knee injury was considered career-threatening at the time, and Lippett's ruptured Achilles tendon is a extremely difficult injury for a cornerback to overcome.

It is imperative, however, that Lippett come back as strong as ever because veteran right corner Raymond Clayborn signed with the Cleveland Browns during the off-season when Berry chose to leave him an unprotected free agent. Clayborn is a former All-Pro who appeared on his way to another strong season last year when he was beset by financial problems that led him to bankruptcy and seemed to cause his concentration, and thus his game, to waiver.

Maurice Hurst, who was both burned and brilliant at various times during the year, may be the man to step in for Clayborn, but even if he does, the secondary seems to be unraveling at the edges.

Clayborn is gone for good, and both James and free safety Fred Marion suffered through a dismal year even in the game's most elemental area — tackling — without the apparent benefit of a young player behind them who can step in. Former top pick Jim Bowman has had several chances to prove that he can take over one of the safety positions and has been unable to handle it; so, there seems to be little long-range help on the bench at the moment.

New England's front seven is equally questionable, although a strong return by Tippett and Veris would alleviate many of the problems while creating more than a few for Patriot opponents. Strong comebacks by both would allow defensive end Brent Williams, a designated pass rusher who had a career year when forced to play full-time after Veris' injury, to blossom and take considerable pressure off the remaining linebackers.

Journeyman Ed Reynolds, ex-Pro Bowler Johnny Rembert, and young Vincent Brown are all coming off strong seasons. If you add Tippett at full strength to that lineup, it's unlikely that New England will give up 31, 28 and 24 points in consecutive games the way it did to end last season.

Journeyman Lawrence McGrew, a starter who was also left unprotected on the Plan B free agent list, is apparently coming back. He has been a sound man both as an inside linebacker and on the outside for most of his career.

That leaves the kicking game, which has been average, at best, the past several years. Jason Staurovsky is still erratic enough to make everyone sweat each time he lines up with a game on the line. The punting chores at this stage could go to anyone with an instep.

As difficult as the picture is with the kicking game, New England remains explosive with its return teams. Fryar is one of the game's most dangerous punt returners, as well as one of the most courageous. Sammy Martin made a name for himself as a kick returner with speed and daring. If the rest of the New England team was as dangerous as those two, the rest of the AFC East would have much to worry about.

If the quarterback problem gets solved, the division still may have a thing or two to worry about when the Patriots come around. But until it is, most of the worrying will be done by the last Sullivan still in the building and a 62-year-old first-time head coach named Rod Rust. Yet, despite the obvious problems, the remaining Sullivan family member insists that adding some Rust to a already creaking team could be enough to kick-start the Patriots.

"He's the right man for this team at the right time," Sullivan said. "I still believe we can be contenders in 1990. I think the transitional period will be muted greatly by bringing in a man who is familiar with the people in the organization.

"Rod brings the right personality to this team."

The only problem is, who will bring the right players?❑

A healthy Patriot defense, led by Roland James and Ed Reynolds, could do some damage. PAUL JASIENSKI

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
FA	**Adams**, George	RB	6-1	225	6	Kentucky
39	**Allen**, Marvin	RB	5-10	208	3	Tulane
78	**Armstrong**, Bruce	T	6-4	284	4	Louisville
28	**Bowman**, Jim	SS	6-2	215	6	Central Michigan
59	**Brown**, Vincent	LB	6-2	245	3	Mississippi Valley State
22	**Coleman**, Eric	CB	6-0	190	2	Wyoming
46	**Cook**, Marv	TE	6-4	234	2	Iowa
87	**Dawson**, Lin	TE	6-3	240	9	North Carolina State
67	**Douglas**, David	G-C	6-4	280	5	Tennessee
88	**Dykes**, Hart Lee	WR	6-4	218	2	Oklahoma
66	**Fairchild**, Paul	G	6-4	270	7	Kansas
62	**Farrell**, Sean	G	6-3	260	9	Penn State
8	**Feagles**, Jeff	P	6-0	198	3	Miami (FL)
63	**Feehery**, Gerry	C	6-2	270	8	Syracuse
80	**Fryar**, Irving	WR-PR	6-0	200	7	Nebraska
FA	**Gannon**, Chris	DE	6-6	265	2	SW Louisiana
FA	**Gambol**, Chris	T	6-6	303	3	Iowa
FA	**Gibson**, Ernest	CB	5-10	185	7	Furman
72	**Goad**, Tim	NT	6-3	280	3	North Carolina
14	**Grogan**, Steve	QB	6-4	210	16	Kansas State
FA	**Harvey**, Richard	LB	6-1	227	1	Tulane
37	**Hurst**, Maurice	CB	5-10	185	2	Southern
38	**James**, Roland	SS	6-2	191	11	Tennessee
FA	**Jarostchuk**, Ilia	LB	6-3	236	4	New Hampshire
99	**Jeter**, Gary	DE	6-4	260	14	Southern Cal
FA	**Johnson**, Damian	T	6-5	290	5	Kansas State
83	**Jones**, Cedric	WR	6-1	184	9	Duke
93	**Jordan**, Tim	LB	6-3	226	4	Wisconsin
42	**Lippett**, Ronnie	CB	5-11	180	8	Miami (FL)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
91	**Lowry**, Orlando	LB	6-4	236	7	Ohio State
31	**Marion**, Fred	FS	6-2	191	9	Miami (FL)
82	**Martin**, Sammy	WR-KR	5-11	175	3	Louisiana State
23	**McSwain**, Rod	CB	6-1	198	7	Clemson
86	**Morgan**, Stanley	WR	5-11	181	14	Tennessee
FA	**Morris**, Jamie	RB	5-7	188	3	Michigan
FA	**Mowatt**, Zeke	TE	6-3	240	8	Florida State
34	**Perryman**, Robert	RB	6-1	233	4	Michigan
52	**Rembert**, Johnny	LB	6-3	234	8	Clemson
95	**Reynolds**, Ed	LB	6-5	242	8	Virginia
51	**Scholtz**, Bruce	LB	6-6	244	9	Texas
85	**Sievers**, Eric	TE	6-4	238	10	Maryland
77	**Sims**, Kenneth	DE	6-5	271	9	Texas
4	**Staurovsky**, Jason	K	5-9	170	4	Tulsa
44	**Stephens**, John	RB	6-1	215	3	NW Louisiana State
30	**Tatupu**, Mosi	RB	6-0	227	13	Southern Cal
45	**Timpson**, Michael	WR	5-10	175	2	Penn State
56	**Tippett**, Andre	LB	6-3	241	9	Iowa
21	**Tucker**, Erroll	CB-KR	5-8	170	3	Utah
60	**Veris**, Garin	DE	6-4	255	6	Stanford
70	**Viaene**, David	T	6-5	300	2	Minnesota-Duluth
75	**Villa**, Danny	T	6-5	305	4	Arizona State
FA	**White**, Bob	C	6-5	273	4	Rhode Island
96	**Williams**, Brent	DE	6-4	275	5	Toledo
54	**Williams**, Ed	LB	6-4	244	6	Texas
15	**Wilson**, Marc	QB	6-5	205	10	Brigham Young
35	**Wonsley**, George	RB	5-10	219	7	Mississippi State
FA	**Zackery**, Tony	FS	6-2	195	2	Washington

PATRIOTS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Chris **SINGLETON** *OLB*	6-3, 244	**Arizona**	Outstanding pass rusher with tremendous quickness and strength . . . Bench presses over 425 pounds . . . Second team All-American selection by The Sporting News . . . All-Pac-10 Conference . . . Third on the team with 95 tackles (66 solos) . . . Led the team with 10 sacks and 21 stops for 101 yards in losses . . . Caused 2 fumbles and had 5 pass deflections.
1	Ray **AGNEW** *DT*	6-3, 281	**North Carolina State**	May be the most underrated defensive lineman in the country . . . Extremely powerful player who can bench press over 500 pounds . . . Second team All-American and first team All-Atlantic Coast in 1989 . . . Finished fourth on the team with 87 tackles, 6 sacks and 17 tackles for 69 yards in losses . . . Credited with 14 quarterback pressures and deflected 2 passes.
3	Tom **HODSON** *QB*	6-2, 189	**Louisiana State**	Holds 9 school and 6 Southeastern Conference career passing records . . . Became the first player in SEC history to throw for over 2,000 yards in four straight seasons . . . Became the first player in school and conference history to throw for over 9,000 yards . . . Ranks 12th on the NCAA all-time list in passing yards (9,115) and total offense (8,938).
3	Greg **MCMURTRY** *WR*	6-2, 204	**Michigan**	Has 4.55 speed in the 40 . . . Ranks fourth on the Wolverines' career list for receptions (111), second in receiving yards (2,163) and third in TD grabs (15) . . . In 1989, All-Big 10 Conference and ranked eighth in the conference with 37 receptions for 655 yards (17.7 avg.) and 7 TDs.
5	Junior **ROBINSON** *CB-RS*	5-9, 181	**East Carolina**	Made 83 tackles (47 solos), caused 2 fumbles and recovered another . . . Deflected 10 passes and picked off 6 others for 67 yards in returns . . . Set a school season record with 38 kickoff returns, good for 955 yards (25.1 avg.).
5	Jon **MELANDER** *OT*	6-7, 276	**Minnesota**	Great strength and agility . . . Began his collegiate career as an outside linebacker, moving to offensive tackle his junior year . . . Possesses excellent initial quickness and is a dominant point of attack blocker who has made tremendous strides as a pass protector.
5	James **GRAY** *TB*	5-10, 197	**Texas Tech**	Holds the Red Raider career records with 4,066 yards rushing and 47 TDs . . . Scored 312 points during his career, surpassing old school scoring record of 215 points . . . Has accounted for 4,781 all-purpose yards, second on the school's all-time list.
9	Shawn **BOUWENS** *OG*	6-4, 280	**Nebraska-Wesleyan**	Superior drive blocker . . . Avid weight lifter with massive arms and tremendous power . . . Recently timed at 4.79 in the 40 . . . All-Nebraska Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection.
10	Anthony **LANDRY** *HB*	5-9, 200	**Stephen F. Austin**	Versatile athlete who has played at halfback, wide receiver and defensive back, in addition to handling both punt and kickoff return duties . . . Played in 14 games in 1989, carrying the ball 39 times for 185 yards and 1 TD . . . Had 31 receptions for 398 yards (12.8 avg.) and 3 TDs.
11	Sean **SMITH** *DE*	6-7, 280	**Georgia Tech**	In 1989, second among the Yellow Jacket down linemen with 56 tackles (29 solos), 1.5 sacks and 6 stops for 19 yards in losses . . . Deflected 3 passes and credited with 6 QB sacks.
12	Ventson **DONELSON** *CB*	5-11, 180	**Michigan State**	Explosive tackler with excellent speed . . . Recently timed at 4.5 in the 40 . . . Started every game in 1989, recording 66 tackles (36 solos) . . . Deflected 2 passes and had 2 interceptions.
12	Blaine **ROSE** *OG*	6-5, 271	**Maryland**	Began his career as a tight end before finding a home at offensive guard . . . Extremely quick and agile for a player his size . . . Has 4.99 speed in the 40.

PATRIOTS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	PATRIOTS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	335	297
Rushing	114	110
Passing	187	176
Penalty	34	11
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	92/240	72/199
4th Down: Made/Atts.	10/29	5/12
TOTAL NET YARDS	5456	5644
Avg. Per Game	341.0	352.8
Total Plays	1129	975
Avg. Per Play	4.8	5.8
NET YARDS RUSHING	1749	1978
Avg. Per Game	109.3	123.6
Total Rushes	485	495
NET YARDS PASSING	3707	3666
Avg. Per Game	231.7	229.1
Tackled/Yards Lost	34/265	31/239
Gross Yards	3972	3905
Attempts/Completions	610/302	449/259
Pct. of Completions	49.5	57.7
Had Intercepted	27	16
PUNTS/AVERAGE	64/37.4	81/42.1
NET PUNTING AVG.	31.3	35.2
PENALTIES/YARDS	63/509	111/954
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	26/12	22/12
TOUCHDOWNS	30	48
Rushing	12	19
Passing	17	27
Returns	1	2

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
PATRIOTS	47	66	71	110	3	297
OPP. TOTAL	82	144	58	107	0	391

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Davis	0-0	3-3	6-9	5-9	2-2	16-23
Staurovsky	0-0	4-4	5-7	4-5	1-1	14-17

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Stephens	244	833	3.4	t35	7
Perryman	150	562	3.7	18	2
Flutie	16	87	5.4	22	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Sievers	54	615	11.4	46	0
Dykes	49	795	16.2	42	5
C. Jones	48	670	14.0	t65	6
Fryar	29	537	18.5	52	3
Perryman	29	195	6.7	16	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Hurst	5	31	6.2	t16	1
James	2	50	25.0	28	0
Marion	2	19	9.5	18	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Feagles	63	2392	38.0	2	13	64	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Martin	19	2	164	8.6	28	0
Tucker	13	1	102	7.8	25	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Martin	24	584	24.3	38	0
Tucker	13	270	20.8	37	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Grogan	261	133	1697	51.0	6.50	9	3.4	14	5.4	t55	8/64	60.8
Wilson	150	75	1006	50.0	6.71	3	2.0	5	3.3	t65	10/71	64.5

NEW YORK JETS

WILL JETS GET OFF THE GROUND?

BY BARRY WILNER

See Dick run the Jets. See Joe go. See Bruce coach.

These are the new New York Jets, emphasis on NEW. Owner Leon Hess finally came away from his struggling oil business long enough to hire Dick Steinberg as general manager last December. Steinberg has the ideal job — for now.

Hess is a loyal owner and will not interfere with Steinberg. Nor will team president Steve Gutman, who will handle the financial end of the team, interfere.

Steinberg is being paid very well (estimates run up to $800,000 a year) to rebuild the Jets, who need a major overhaul. This season, at least, there will be little pressure on the former director of player development for the Patriots: nobody really expects much from a team that went 4-12 and suffered some awful blowouts.

Still, Steinberg isn't conceding anything.

"There's a basic group of good players here to work with, young players on defense, in particular, who have gotten a year or two of experience," Steinberg says. "They have a head start that you don't often get."

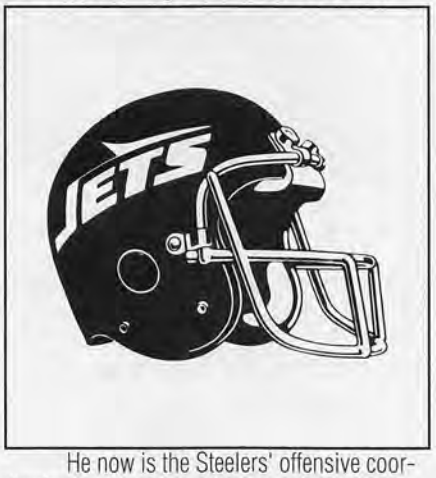
Steinberg meant Erik McMillan, a two-time Pro Bowl safety, and cornerback James Hasty. If the Jets ever develop a pass rush (they had a dismal 28 sacks, less than two a game, in '89) the ultra-cocky McMillan and Hasty could be a dynamic duo in the secondary.

Before Steinberg could set about remaking the roster, he had to cure the coaching ills.

The Jets were overachievers in three of Joe Walton's seven seasons. They made the playoffs in 1985 and '86 as wild cards and were 8-7-1 in 1988 with a mediocre cast.

But Bud Carson, who developed intricate defensive schemes to hide glaring weaknesses, probably was more responsible for those successes than Walton. When Carson moved up to head coach in Cleveland, the Jets' defense no longer had its strongest weapon.

Many of the Jets had come to strongly dislike Walton, whose bullying ways grew wearisome. Several players have said Walton wanted to control every facet of their lives. Never a great in-game tactician, Walton had no chance of surviving such a disastrous season.



He now is the Steelers' offensive coordinator.

Cincinnati's offensive coordinator, Bruce Coslet, got the Jets' head spot after a search that caused Steinberg some embarrassment.

Steinberg apparently wanted George Perles of Michigan State. But, just as he did in 1988, when Green Bay was courting him, Perles played the Jets against the school. He walked away with the athletic director's job at East Lansing, along with his coaching duties, and left the Jets looking silly.

Then Steinberg was interested in 49ers offensive coordinator Mike Holmgren, probably the hottest assistant in the NFL. But the Niners made it very lucrative for Holmgren to stay in San Francisco, and Steinberg turned to Coslet.

Did Coslet feel like an also-ran?

"I have the job and they don't," he says of the other candidates.

"We were looking for someone who can create a winning environment," Steinberg says. "We are getting a man with one of the most innovative minds in the business. At Cincinnati, he not only was instrumental in developing an exciting offense, but also one of the most productive running attacks in the NFL."

Coslet came highly recommended. Since Boomer Esiason became the starting quarterback, the Bengals' offensive numbers are impressive.

"Whatever success we've had wouldn't have happened without him," Bengals' coach Sam Wyche says. "New York will find a young coach, in terms of years, but not in terms of experience. Bruce is a talented and imaginative coach who is willing to take a chance as long as it falls in the realm of sound football."

"It's a great sense of loss to our players," Esiason says. "It's like losing a star player."

It will be some, time, however, before the Jets have enough star players to contend for the NFL championship. But the AFC East isn't exactly a super sector, so they could soon be in contention for a division title.

New York's best players are receivers Al Toon and Mickey Shuler, who were injured for most of 1989; McMillan and Hasty; linebacker Jeff Lageman, the controversial No. 1 draftee last year who came on throughout the season and seemed to justify his selection; reliable place kicker Pat Leahy; and center Jim Sweeney.

Coslet's first chore is to get the attack clicking. Only against Miami, on whom the Jets always score no matter how bad they are, and New England, did the Jets move with regularity.

Toon, of course, is a great weapon. He is a tall, fast receiver with great range, hands and guts. Barring injury, he figures to be in the 90-reception range.

But he needs help from the other side. JoJo Townsell moved from special

Inside linebacker Kyle Clifton hopes to lead Jets again in '90.

ALLEN DEAN STEELE

teamer to starting WR and had 45 catches, a 17.5 average and a team-high five TDs. He was voted team MVP.

There isn't much else, though, and Shuler's backups at tight end aren't inspiring. If Shuler is limited again (he had only 29 receptions and no touchdowns), the Jets are in trouble.

They'll also be in trouble if the line doesn't mesh. Only Sweeney is steady, one of the few NFL centers who can handle nose tackles singlehandedly.

"We have to do some serious thinking about the line," Coslet admitted. "We need to give our guys more time to throw and our runners more holes."

The Jets surrendered 62 sacks and neither Ken O'Brien nor Tony Eason are skilled at avoiding a pass rush. Given time, O'Brien can be dangerous. But he has spent much more time on his pants than in the pocket through his 5 1-2 years as starter.

As happened too often under the old regime, the Jets drafted poorly for the line. Two of their No. 1 picks, Mike Haight and Dave Cadigan, haven't panned out.

Haight did spend most of last season starting at left guard, but he is hardly an intrenched incumbent.

Every team in the NFL was wrong about Cadigan, an All-American at Southern California who was the eighth selection in 1988. He was projected as a blue-chipper, but Cadigan has yet to win a starting slot on such a weak unit.

He doesn't even look the part anymore, having gone from a rock-solid 280-pounder to a somewhat flabbier look.

Dan Alexander, a 13-year starter at guard, has retired. The only other holdover with much future in New York is Jeff Criswell, an inconsistent tackle who was a free-agent find in '88.

Coslet said O'Brien and Eason start out even for the quarterbacking spot. Look for O'Brien, if he isn't too beaten up, to emerge as No. 1.

When he gets protection and his receivers are healthy, O'Brien can be a winner. O'Brien to Toon/Shuler is a dangerous combo.

When O'Brien is off, his passes sail well off the mark and he gets intercepted. He comes off his worst season, 288 of 477 for 3,346 yards, with 18 interceptions and a mere 12 TDs. New York scored 10 or fewer points in seven games and was shut out twice.

Eason, signed after New England cut him, was taken in the first round of the 1983 draft by Steinberg. His mental toughness has been questioned, something nobody denies is O'Brien's strength.

But Eason is mobile and, given the shoddy blocking, that is a necessary commodity with the Jets.

Freeman McNeil has been the hub of the rushing attack for nine years. He won't make it a decade in that role.

Steinberg seriously considered taking Blair Thomas of Penn State with the No. 2 pick in the draft. He wasn't comfortable with the Texas A&M connection of Johnny Hector and Roger Vick in the backfield.

Hector is a valuable situation player, particularly near the goal line. He's one of the league's best fill-ins, but carrying the full load at halfback is a bit much.

Vick has been a bust, a fullback with outside rushing instincts and an inconsistent blocker. This is a critical year for him, especially because Coslet favors an offense with a heavy emphasis on a big, bruising runner.

Too often in recent years, the Jets have bogged down on attack and needed to call on Leahy to bail them out. Most of the time, he's done so. But how many games can you win by piling up three-pointers, even with a kicker headed for the Hall of Fame?

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
19	**Antrum**, Glenn	WR	5-11	175	1	Connecticut
30	**Baxter**, Brad	RB	6-1	231	1	Alabama State
18	**Bell**, Grantis	WR-KR	5-9	150	1	West Virginia
54	**Benson**, Troy	LB	6-2	235	5	Pittsburgh
42	**Booty**, John	S-CB	6-0	179	3	Texas Christian
80	**Boyer**, Mark	TE	6-4	252	6	Southern California
29	**Brown**, A.B.	RB	5-9	212	2	West Virginia
87	**Burkett**, Chris	WR	6-4	210	6	Jackson State
69	**Burman**, Jon	T	6-8	300	1	Illinois
90	**Byrd**, Dennis	DE	6-5	270	1	Tulsa
31	**Byrum**, Carl	RB	6-0	237	4	Mississippi Valley State
66	**Cadigan**, Dave	G-T	6-4	280	3	Southern California
59	**Clifton**, Kyle	LB	6-4	236	7	Texas Christian
61	**Criswell**, Jeff	T	6-7	290	4	Graceland (IA)
49	**Curtis**, Travis	S	5-10	180	4	West Virginia
84	**Dressel**, Chris	TE	6-4	245	6	Stanford
11	**Eason**, Tony	QB	6-4	212	8	Illinois
45	**Egu**, Patrick	RB	5-11	205	2	Nevada-Reno
89	**Epps**, Phillip	WR-KR	5-9	165	9	Texas Christian
91	**Frase**, Paul	DE-DT	6-5	267	3	Syracuse
55	**Gordon**, Alex	LB	6-5	246	4	Cincinnati
79	**Haight**, Mike	G	6-4	281	5	Iowa
84	**Harper**, Michael	WR-KR	5-10	180	5	Southern California
40	**Hasty**, James	CB	6-0	197	3	Washington State
34	**Hector**, Johnny	RB	5-11	202	8	Texas A&M
28	**Howard**, Carl	CB-S	6-2	190	7	Rutgers
48	**Humphery**, Bobby	CB-KR	5-10	180	7	New Mexico State
81	**Kelly**, Pat	TE	6-6	252	3	Syracuse
57	**Kohlbrand**, Joe	LB	6-4	242	6	Miami (FL)
38	**Konecny**, Mark	RB	6-0	200	4	Alma (MI)
56	**Lageman**, Jeff	LB	6-5	250	2	Virginia
5	**Leahy**, Pat	K	6-0	196	17	St. Louis
93	**Lyons**, Marty	DE-DT	6-5	269	12	Alabama
15	**Mackey**, Kyle	QB	6-3	216	4	East Texas State

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
64	**Matich**, Trevor	C-G-T	6-4	270	6	Brigham Young
23	**Mayes**, Michael	CB	5-10	182	1	Louisiana State
68	**McElroy**, Reggie	T	6-6	276	8	West Texas State
22	**McMillan**, Erik	S	6-2	197	3	Missouri
92	**McNeil**, Emanuel	DT	6-3	285	1	Tennessee-Martin
24	**McNeil**, Freeman	RB	5-11	212	10	UCLA
94	**Mersereau**, Scott	DT-DE	6-3	280	4	Southern Connecticut
36	**Miano**, Rich	S	6-0	200	5	Hawaii
72	**Miller**, Brett	T	6-7	300	8	Iowa
51	**Mott**, Joe	LB	6-4	253	2	Iowa
95	**Naposki**, Eric	LB	6-2	230	2	Connecticut
86	**Neubert**, Keith	TE	6-6	248	2	Nebraska
77	**Nichols**, Gerald	DT-DE	6-2	267	4	Florida State
7	**O'Brien**, Ken	QB	6-4	206	8	Cal-Davis
70	**Oliver**, Jeff	T-G	6-4	292	1	Boston College
26	**Parker**, Anthony	CB	5-10	181	1	Arizona State
17	**Parker**, Carl	WR	6-2	201	3	Vanderbilt
6	**Prokop**, Joe	P	6-2	224	5	Cal Poly-Pomona
25	**Radachowsky**, George	S	5-11	195	6	Boston College
71	**Rehder**, Tom	T-G	6-7	280	3	Notre Dame
82	**Shuler**, Mickey	TE	6-3	231	13	Penn State
20	**Smith**, Irvin	CB-S	5-10	181	1	Maryland
74	**Singer**, Curt	T	6-5	279	4	Tennessee
14	**Snyder**, Brent	QB	6-3	230	1	Utah State
96	**Stallworth**, Ron	DE	6-5	262	2	Auburn
53	**Sweeney**, Jim	C	6-4	270	7	Pittsburgh
88	**Toon**, Al	WR	6-4	205	6	Wisconsin
83	**Townsell**, JoJo	WR-KR	5-9	180	6	UCLA
43	**Vick**, Roger	RB	6-3	235	4	Texas A&M
21	**Washington**, Brian	S	6-1	220	2	Nebraska
97	**Washington**, Marvin	DT-DE	6-6	260	2	Idaho
33	**Williams**, Terry	CB	5-11	204	3	Bethune-Cookman
76	**Withycombe**, Mike	T-G	6-5	300	3	Fresno State
63	**Zawatson**, Dave	G-T	6-5	275	2	California

JETS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Blair **THOMAS** *HB*	5-11, 190	**Penn State**	Closed out his career second on the school's all-time rushing list with 3,301 yards . . . The first running back to gain over 1,300 yards rushing in two seasons . . . Caught 18 passes for 118 yards and returned 10 punts for 76 yards.
2	Reggie **REMBERT** *WR*	6-4, 195	**West Virginia**	Has 4.42 speed in the 40 . . . Came to the Mountaineers after earning All-American honors at Independence JC . . . Led the team with 43 receptions for 793 yards (18.4 avg.) and 11 TDs.
3	Tony **STARGELL** *CB*	6-0, 175	**Tennessee State**	Named All-Ohio Valley Conference in 1989 . . . Led the team with 11 pass break-ups . . . Had 2 interceptions.
4	Troy **TAYLOR** *QB*	6-4, 201	**California**	Holds the Golden Bears' all-time record for total offense (8,236 yards), passing yardage (8,126), pass attempts (1,162), pass completions (683) and touchdown tosses (51) . . . Completed 220 of 394 passes (55.8%) for 2,738 yards and 16 TDs.
5	Tony **SAVAGE** *DT*	6-3, 306	**Washington State**	Aggressive, combative pass rusher . . . Second team All-Pac 10 Conference pick . . . At right tackle, recorded 48 tackles (22 solos) with 4 sacks and 9 stops for 34 yards in losses.
5	Robert **McWREIGHT** *CB*	5-9, 179	**Texas Christian**	Has 4.35 speed in the 40 . . . One of the team's strongest players who bench presses over 400 pounds . . . Caused and recovered 2 fumbles . . . Had a team high 14 pass deflections.
6	Terance **MATHIS** *WR*	5-11, 167	**New Mexico**	Has 263 receptions for 4,254 yards . . . Set WAC all-time marks with 36 TDs and 6,691 yards in all-purpose rushing . . . The only player in NCAA history with over 250 receptions, 4,000 receiving yards and 6,000 all-purpose yards in a career.
7	Dwayne **WHITE** *G*	6-2, 315	**Alcorn State**	For a 315-pounder, he has extremely good quickness and is an explosive run blocker . . . As a senior he anchored the line on an offense that ranked 7th in the nation with 444.5 yards per game.
7	Basil **PROCTOR** *LB*	6-4, 230	**West Virginia**	Can run into coverage and also be effective as a blitzer . . . Was used at SS as a senior to take advantage of his speed . . . Recorded 49 tackles and 1 interception.
8	Roger **DUFFY** *C*	6-3, 281	**Penn State**	Called by head coach, Joe Paterno, "an outstanding football player who may be the best center we've ever had at the school" . . . Started the last 31 games . . . Recently timed at 5.19 in the 40.
9	Dale **DAWKINS** *WR*	6-1, 190	**Miami (FL)**	He tied for 5th on the school's all-time list with 11 TDs and is 8th with 1,341 yards on 90 receptions . . . Was honorable mention All-American as a senior.
10	Brad **QUAST** *ILB*	6-1, 241	**Iowa**	Holds school record for linebackers with 11 interceptions . . . Second team All-American and first team All-Big 10 Conference . . . Finished with 114 tackles (52 solos), including 2 stops for minus 4 yards.
11	Derrick **KELSON** *CB*	6-0, 184	**Purdue**	Second team All-American . . . Recorded 30 tackles (26 solos) . . . Caused 2 fumbles and recovered another . . . Deflected 7 passes and had 1 interception.
12	Darrell **DAVIS** *LB*	6-2, 255	**Texas Christian**	A very productive DE in college . . . Was All-SWC and honorable mention All-American as a senior starting at DE when he was second on the team with 93 tackles and 8 sacks . . . Has 4.7 speed in the 40.

JETS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	JETS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	292	328
Rushing	91	127
Passing	189	178
Penalty	12	23
3rd Down:Made/Atts.	68/210	82/213
4th Down: Made/Atts.	7/15	7/16
TOTAL NET YARDS	5011	5994
Avg. Per Game	313.2	374.6
Total Plays	1032	1059
Avg. Per Play	4.9	5.7
NET YARDS RUSHING	1596	2136
Avg. Per Game	99.8	133.5
Total Rushes	400	517
NET YARDS PASSING	3415	3858
Avg. Per Game	213.4	241.1
Tackled/Yards Lost	62/477	28/177
Gross Yards	3892	4035
Attempts/Completions	570/338	514/282
Pct. Of Completions	59.3	54.9
Had Intercepted	24	15
PUNTS/Average	87/39.4	69/39.8
NET PUNTING AVG.	35.5	33.7
PENALTIES/YARDS	116/957	90/675
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	32/17	32/9
Touchdowns	30	50
Rushing	11	16
Passing	14	31
Returns	5	3

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
JETS	37	74	60	82	0	253
OPP. TOTAL	53	133	119	106	0	411

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Leahy	1-1	6-7	3-4	4-8	0-1	14-22

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Hector	177	702	4.0	24	3
Vick	112	434	3.9	t39	5
McNeil	80	352	4.4	t19	2

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Toon	63	693	11.0	t37	2
Townsell	45	787	17.5	t63	5
Hector	38	330	8.7	32	2
Vick	34	241	7.1	21	2
McNeil	31	310	10.0	t25	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Ytds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
McMillan	6	180	30.0	t92	1
Hasty	5	62	12.4	t34	1
Booty	1	13	13.0	13	0

PUNTING	No.	Ytds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Prokop	87	3426	39.4	4	29	76	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Ytds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Townsell	33	12	299	9.1	30	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Ytds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Townsell	34	653	19.2	69	0
Humphrey	24	414	17.3	52	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
O'Brien	477	288	3346	60.4	7.01	12	2.5	18	3.8	57	50/391	74.3
Eason	36	22	255	61.1	7.08	1	2.8	2	5.6	t63	7/42	68.6

Leahy is part of what traditionally has been one of the NFL's strongest specialty units. But even that facet began falling apart during the 1989 disaster. Punt and kick coverages no longer were airtight—opponents averaged more than four yards per kickoff return than the Jets managed.

Defensively, New York ranged from inconsistent to inept. The worst showings came the final two weeks, when the team clearly had quit and lost 38-14 to the Rams and 37-0 to the Bills.

The only certain returning starters are Lageman, McMillan, the gambling free safety who had six of the Jets' 15 interceptions, and Hasty, who picked off five. Each returned one for a score.

"The ball," says Hasty. "We've been trained to go for the ball and make the big play."

Unfortunately for the Jets, both McMillan and Hasty often get burned by their penchant to take risks. But they are talented DBs who will be key factors in the rebuilding.

Don't look for veterans Bobby Humphery, Carl Howard or George Radachowsky in the revamped secondary. If Terry Williams, the No. 2 pick in 1988, can stay healthy, which he hasn't done for two years, he could make the lineup. So might versatile John Booty, who also has had injury problems.

Rich Miano was improving at strong safety before missing all of '89 after knee surgery.

When the Jets selected Lageman with the 14th pick of the first round last year, the fans at the New York hotel booed long and loud. By the end of the season, when they were booing just about everything in a white-and-green uniform, Lageman was being spared.

Rightfully so. He was New York's best linebacker for the second half of the season. His main responsibility will be as a pass-rusher, although there's still a chance Coslet might move Lageman inside.

Alex Gordon, the other outside LB, hasn't done much the last two seasons. The backups are nondescript.

Inside LBs Kyle Clifton and Troy Benson are OK, but they're also overworked. Clifton once again led the team in tackles with 162, while Benson was next with 113.

The 3-4 defense calls for a heavy emphasis on the linebackers and this group just isn't good enough or deep enough to carry the load.

The front three has no standouts but several promising youngsters. Marty Lyons is the only veteran who will get significant time, but he has chronic shoulder woes.

The Jets could use more of a threat at nose tackle, where Scott Mersereau and Gerald Nichols certainly aren't dominant. Oh, for the days of Joe Klecko.

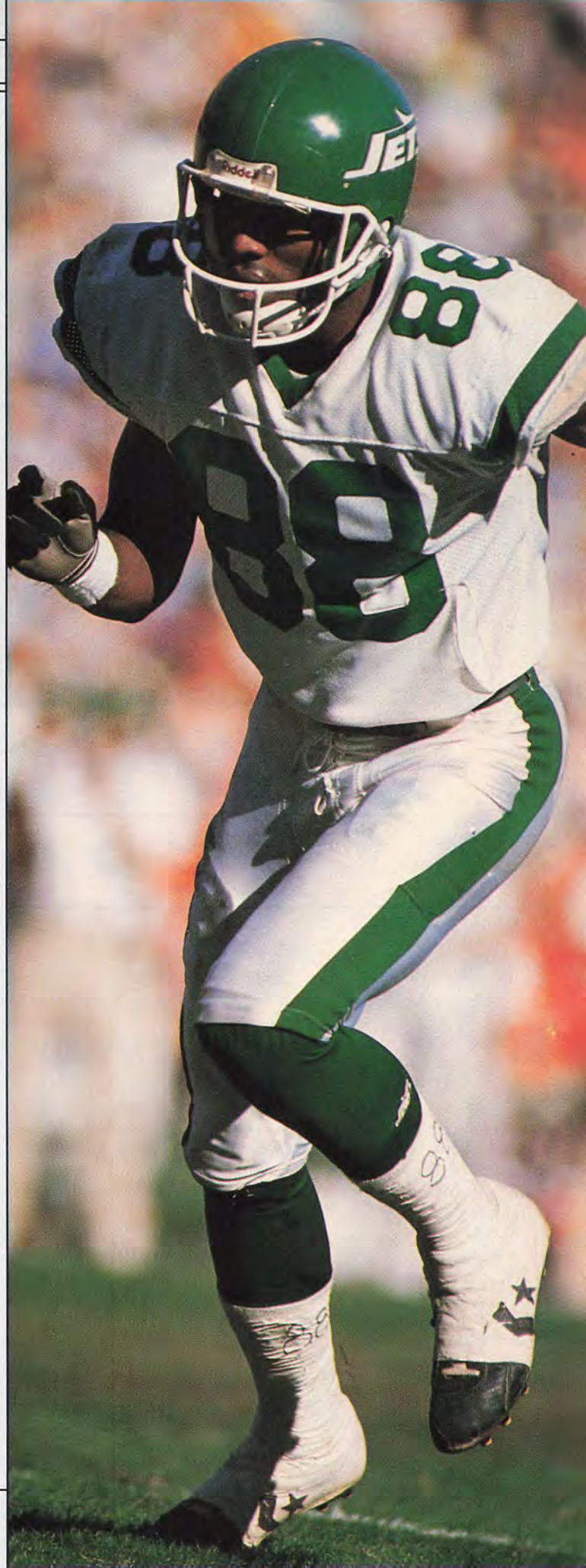
Four youthful DEs will split time. Paul Frase is the old timer of the group; he's going into his third season. Frase is better against the run.

The pass-rushers, both of whom could develop into something special off what they showed in their rookie seasons, are Dennis Byrd and Ron Stallworth. Byrd didn't get much time until the second half of the schedule, yet led the team with seven sacks. He did so without much help from anyone else — the rest of the line had 11 sacks, total.

"We know that's not good enough," Mersereau says. "You can't expect to win without a pass rush."

The expectations for victory won't be too demanding on the Jets in the most demanding town in the nation. Steinberg, Coslet and company can go about their business with a minimum of pressure this season.

See Dick and Bruce work. Don't look to see the fruits of their labor in 1990.❑



Despite Jets' problems, Al Toon is still one of the game's most valued receivers.

KIRK SCHLEA / ALLSPORT

RICK STEWART / ALLSPORT

San Francisco
REPEATING

BY JOHN DELCOS

Sometime in the second half of the Super Bowl — long after the outcome had been decided — Joe Montana walked over to George Seifert and nudged the San Francisco 49ers' head coach.

The two exchanged a wordless smile. Montana's message was clear: "Hey, this is fun. Let's do it again."

Clearly, the Denver Broncos were no competition. Neither were the Los Angeles Rams and Minnesota Vikings in the NFC playoffs. The 49ers steamrolled through the playoffs by a combined 126-26 score — an average of 42-9 if you're counting — en route to their fourth Super Bowl championship.

Clearly, the only remaining competition is history. No team has ever won three consecutive Super Bowls.

Vince Lombardi's Packers, Miami's 17-0-0 perfect Dolphins, Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain: that's where the challenge will come. However, Green Bay and Miami didn't win four Super Bowls. That leaves Pittsburgh and the past as San Francisco's ultimate opposition in the future.

"I hate to make comparisons with other teams, but our team certainly is one of the best. With the way we're playing, it would be hard to beat our team," said Montana, who draws comparisons of another kind — to Terry Bradshaw, to Johnny Unitas, to Bart Starr, to Otto Graham.

Running back Roger Craig has no doubts where the 49ers rate.

"We're a dynasty," Craig said matter-of-factly. "The fourth ring is great. It's a great feeling to repeat. We can be mentioned in the same breath with the Steelers, the Dolphins, and the Packers.

"Our goal is to three-peat. We have a lot of talent on our team and a lot of leaders, so I don't think we'll come back complacent. We're the kind of team that thrives on pressure. We thrive on trying to get better every time we step on the field."

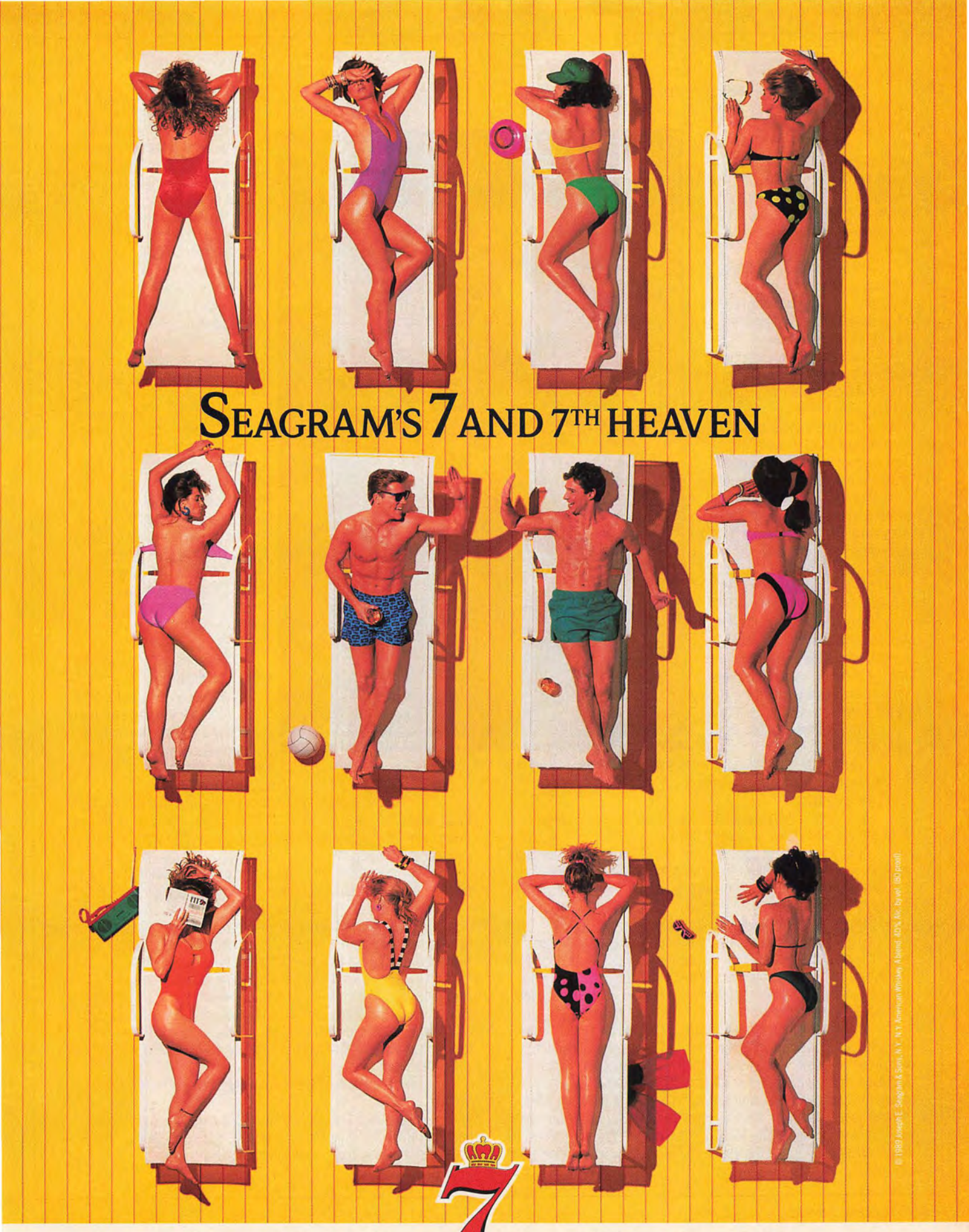
The numbers only begin to tell the story of their dominance. The 49ers enter the new season and decade having won 24 of their last 27 games. In their last six playoff games they've allowed just three touchdowns and have outscored the opposition 208-54. In their four Super Bowls, the combined score has been 136-40.

Dominance. Look it up in the dictionary and there's the 49er team picture.

Throughout Super Bowl week, Seifert escaped the Pittsburgh question with the ease with which Jerry Rice beats single coverage. However, after the game, his shirt drenched in champagne, Seifert again was asked about the 49ers' place in history.

After adding up the numbers, he decided the Steelers are beatable. A three-peat is possible.

"I believe we'd match up quite well with the Steelers," Seifert said. "Those were some of the greatest teams at that time. Now, this is our turn. At this moment, it's a fun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thing to talk about.

"I imagine there will be a time when my throat will fill up, but at this moment, the fact the players are saying that is fine with me. I'll be happy to be a part of it."

The Los Angeles Lakers were the last professional team to win back-to-back titles. After their first victory, Coach Pat Riley, in a way of psychologically motivating his team, guaranteed a championship the following year.

With the 49ers, it's the players doing the talking, led by Montana. "Each Super Bowl victory is sweeter. Let's go get another," said the future Hall of Famer.

Perhaps the most important factor in repeating is maintaining the desire of a champion, remembering what it's like to lose.

No, San Francisco didn't win every Super Bowl in the 1980s, it just seemed that way. When the 49ers went to training camp last year, they thought of things other than their dramatic drive which beat Cincinnati in Super Bowl XXIII. They remembered the pain of being beaten. They remembered the humiliation of losing two playoff games to the New York Giants, one by 49-3; they remembered being routed by Minnesota at Candlestick Park; they remembered their feelings after losing the division to the Rams; they remembered how Washington eliminated them on a controversial call.

They felt the heartbreaks in their stomachs.

"Everybody stayed hungry and we kept playing," said defensive end Danny Stubbs.

Said Rice: "We take a lot of pride in what we do. We take the field with the attitude we're the best team.

"It's great winning back-to-back. Hopefully, next year we'll get another opportunity. I feel we can. I'm looking forward to a third one. I'm looking down the road. If you want to keep getting better, you have to set high standards for yourself."

Those standards pay off in a lot of ways.

The 49ers have always resisted the demons that tore down other champions. The New York Giants and Chicago Bears flooded the market with books, commercials and rap videos. Montana, Rice, Ronnie Lott and Craig have national endorsement contracts; the rest of the team keeps a low profile.

That low profile includes staying within the law and maintaining self-respect. The Giants' Lawrence Taylor was suspended for drug violations and wrote a book glorifying the experience; the Bears' Jim McMahon spread himself thin with too many endorsements, got injured, then alienated his teammates and coaches to the point where he was traded; the Bears' William Perry is on the verge of eating himself out of the league; Keith Millard is one of nine Vikings arrested for drunk driving in the past five years. The 49ers stay out of those headlines, not to mention court.

Veteran safety Ronnie Lott is the key man in the 49er's secondary. FRANK ANDERSON

Above all else, what motivates the 49ers isn't money, but a sense of pride.

"Our approach is that as long as we're working, we've got to give it our best shot," said guard Guy McIntyre. "A doctor doesn't operate one time the best he can and slack off. So, I would imagine our players will give it their best shot.

"That's something we've been able to do. If we keep our heads together and keep focused like we've done the last couple of years, I think it's within our reach. We've got something going. We're going to go out next year, give it our all and see what we can do with it. That's the consensus of the team.

"You have to keep thinking that way. You play to win. You just keep focusing in on the next thing."

Other teams have more talented players. Minnesota, for example, sends more players to the Pro Bowl than the 49ers. The difference, said McIntyre, is the 49er work ethic. Despite their high-profile stars, and that they play in one of the country's most glamorous cities, the 49ers have an old-fashioned attitude about work. It's a cliche — almost an absurdity to say it considering today's salaries — but they have a blue-collar attitude.

"We pride ourselves in executing," McIntyre said. "We always talk about execution, getting to the point of contact. We strive for it day in and day out. When we mess up a play in practice, we run it over again until we get it right. That's the way you have to do it.

"I looked at some films of Vince Lombardi and it was the same thing. He drilled the guys. He wouldn't let up on them and he had to make them believe they could win. Once you believe you can win, you can do anything.

"We expect each year to make it to the playoffs. Not just win our division, but make it to the playoffs and then take it one game at a time."

However, work isn't its own reward.

Perhaps one of the reasons why the 49ers aren't distracted by commercials and books, not to mention holding out for better contracts, is because owner Eddie DeBartolo takes care of them.

Phil Simms and Mark Bavaro. Wilber Marshall and Neal Anderson. Dan Marino and Ken O'Brien. Al Toon and Eric Dickerson. Warren Moon and Wade Wilson. Anthony Carter and Steve Jordan. All of those players are Pro Bowlers. Another common thread is that they've held out of training camp in salary disputes and played poorly when they returned.

That's another headline — and headache — the 49ers have avoided.

"It starts with DeBartolo," said Craig. "That's the reason we have four rings. He's the best owner in the business. We love him to death. He shows so much affection for his employees.

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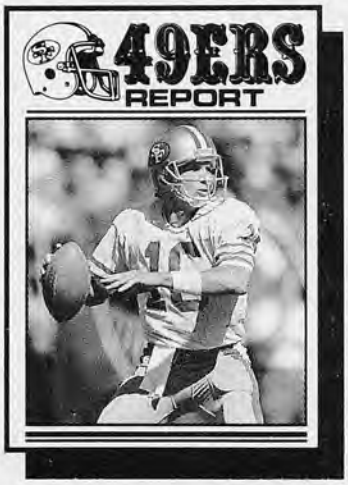

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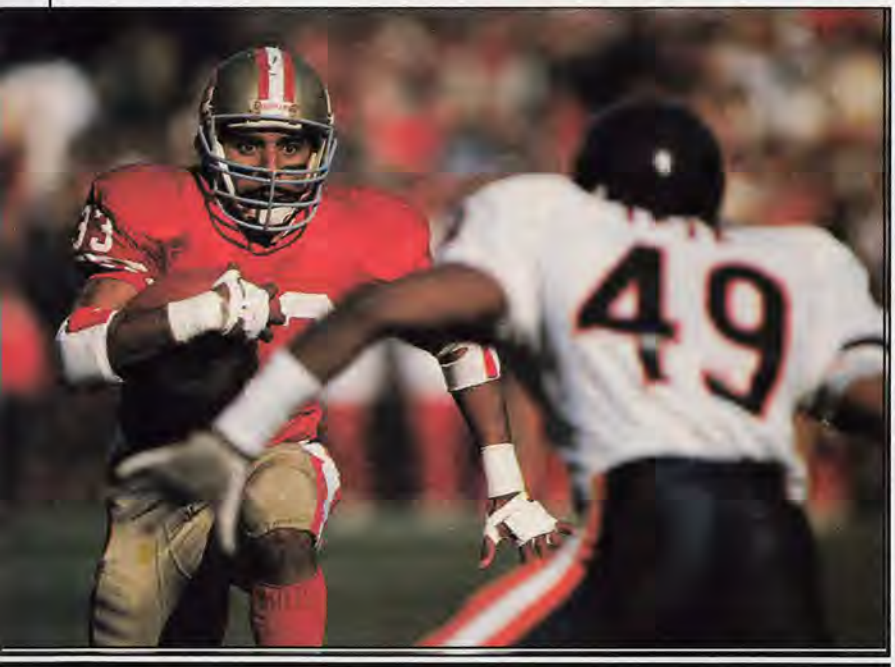
"He keeps everybody happy. We don't have any problem with salaries. Some guys might have their little differences once in awhile, but that's only natural. He finds a way to work it out."

Montana and offensive coordinator Mike Holmgren are two recent examples. Knowing Philadelphia's Randall Cunningham, who's 0-2 in the playoffs, signed a five-year, $15 million contract, and Cleveland's Bernie Kosar, 0-3 in AFC Championship games, signed a six-year, $15 million extension, DeBartolo said he'd set things right with Montana.

Despite previously having signed Montana to a three-year extension, DeBartolo said after the Super Bowl he'd rework the contract to make Montana the NFL's highest-paid player.

Holmgren is an interesting case. The New York Jets and



Running back Roger Craig prevents opposing defenses from keying on Joe Montana.

FRANK ANDERSON

Phoenix Cardinals interviewed Holmgren for head coaching positions, but fearing his team's chemistry would be disrupted, DeBartolo signed Holmgren to a new contract which makes him the NFL's highest-paid assistant.

There's more. During the 1987 stike, DeBartolo made up for missed paychecks with bonuses, for which he was fined by the NFL. But, get this, the players chipped in to pay part of the fine.

There's more. In addition to carrying one of the NFL's highest payrolls, the 49ers go first-class — a private plane that flies when the 49ers are ready (not the airlines), chartered buses, first-class hotels, parties for the players' wives and girlfriends and a Christmas party with gifts for each player's child.

Who wouldn't want to work for that organization?

"I think that's significant," McIntyre said. "The less disgruntled employees you have, the more they feel like playing for you. Maybe they feel like going that extra mile.

"A lot of people have come from different places and said, 'Man, this is a great organization from top to bottom.' And I think that starts with the owner. I think he strives to be the best. You can see it in his shopping malls. Then he does the little things. He cares about people. He goes that extra mile with you. And when you get a chance, you just want to play your best."

Nose tackle Jim Burt played on the Giants' Super Bowl team but was forced to retire with a back injury in training camp last year. The retirement never sat well with Burt, who signed a free agent contract and was a key contributor down the stretch when starter Michael Carter was injured.

"This organization is unbelievable," Burt said. "This is a special organization the way it treats its players. It's first-class all the way."

The Steelers, Dolphins and Packers also were first-class but faded into mediocrity.

The Green Bay dynasty died at the time of the merger. Lombardi stayed with his veterans too long. He won Super Bowls I and II — retiring after the second — but left behind an aging roster. Without Lombardi to drive them, the Packers' hunger died and the rest of the league caught up with them.

Don Shula's Dolphins remained competitive after winning consecutive Super Bowls in the 1970s. What stopped them were the Oakland and Pittsburgh powerhouses.

After their 17-0-0 season, Miami returned to the playoffs, but was beaten by the Raiders on a last-minute touchdown pass by Ken Stabler. The Raiders lost the following week in the AFC Championship to the Steelers, who went on to beat Minnesota in the Super Bowl.

Pittsburgh repeated, but was defeated by the Raiders the following year in the AFC championship. However, Pittsburgh returned to close out the 1970s by again winning consecutive Super Bowls.

Injury, age, and continually drafting toward the bottom factored into the Steelers not returning to the Super Bowl.

Miami went to the Super Bowl twice during the 1980s — losing to Washington and the 49ers — but has since declined.

Will it happen to the 49ers?

As good as they are, several obstacles stand in their way:

- The Montana Health Factor: As great as he has been playing, don't forget that two years ago he supposedly was through because of a back injury. As long as he's healthy, the 49ers are in every game. However, San Francisco is a blindside blitz away from falling into the pack.
- The Steve Young Factor: How long can he sit behind Montana? The book on Young is that he's good enough to start for most teams, basically because he has pulled the 49ers out of several games. Without Young, Montana might not have gotten the chance to win the last two Super Bowls.

However, Young has never had the job to himself. This is a crucial decision: Do the 49ers deal him for draft choices and rebuild on the run — avoiding the similar falls of the Dolphins and Steelers — and take the risk that Montana will stay healthy?

- The Rules of the Game Factor: With limited free agency and Plan B, teams can build in ways other than the draft. Yes, the 49ers can sign free agents to plug holes, but teams will raid the 49ers, testing DeBartolo. Sure, he'll pay top dollar for Montana, but what about the 37th spot on the roster?
- The Hunger of Others Factor: The rest of the league is tired of the 49ers.

"The 49ers are the big guys on the block," said Rams defensive back Jerry Gray. "You are the little guy and you have to go past his house every day to get home. And every day he beats you up. One day, you have to fight and whip the other guy. You've got to say, 'Enough is enough'."

Maybe so. But, by the same token, the 49ers claim that four Super Bowls aren't enough.❑

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PITTSBURGH STEELERS

IS ANOTHER DYNASTY COMING?

BY ED BOUCHETTE

Following the Pittsburgh Steelers at Three Rivers Stadium can become a religious experience.

In 1972, fans there saw the Immaculate Reception, that miraculous pass from Terry Bradshaw with pinball action that wound up in the hands of Franco Harris for one of the most improbable plays in NFL history.

Now comes the Resurrection, not one play but a season, nearly as unpredictable as Franco's catch.

The Immaculate Reception beat the Raiders in the playoffs, signalled the end of nearly 40 years of bad football in Pittsburgh and marked the beginning of one of the great dynasties in football history.

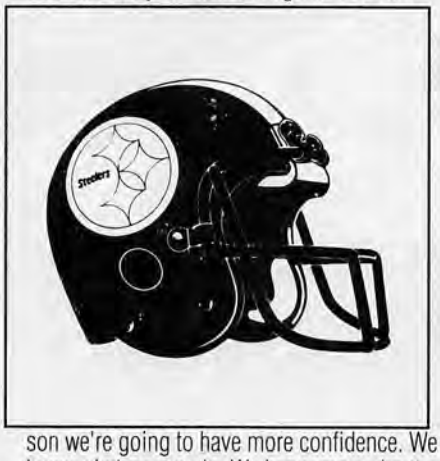
Seventeen years later, the Resurrection has breathed life into that since-crumbled dynasty at a time when things looked bleak. The Steelers were 5-11 in 1988, their worst record in two decades and Coach Chuck Noll nearly quit. It couldn't have gotten much worse. But 1989 began, and it did. The Steelers opened at home against their biggest rivals, the Cleveland Browns,and were nuked, 51-0. The next week, they lost to another AFC Central opponent, Cincinnati, 41-10.

A meeting was held among Noll, President Dan Rooney and two of Rooney's closest advisors. It was one of the lowest points in Noll's regime, but everyone at the meeting decided to keep a steady hand and try to get things back on course.

After getting conked 92-10 in their first two games, the Steelers upset Minnesota. The Resurrection was on. They entered the final six games of the season needing five victories and some help to make the playoffs — and they got it, surging to a 9-7 record and a wildcard playoff berth. They upset Houston in overtime in their first playoff game in the Astrodome and led heavy favorite Denver right up until the last minute and a half before falling by a point in the second game.

Hundreds greeted the Steelers upon their return at the airport. After missing the playoffs four years in a row, they were heroes again and there were echoes of the early '70s as the '90s began.

"We've come a long way," said quarterback Bubby Brister. "Going into next season we're going to have more confidence. We know what we can do. We know more about people. We have a lot more experience. The 1990s are going to be bright for this team. I can see that."



Rooney thought last year's team resembled his 1971 outfit, a young, talented group that fed off a few more drafts and exploded into the '70s.

"We're on our way up," he said. "We have a lot of good players. But we have to continue to improve our personnel and keep going. That's a never-ending thing. After '71, we had a great draft in '72 and a tremendous draft in '74, which may have been the greatest in the history of the NFL. We're at that stage now. We have to come on and improve."

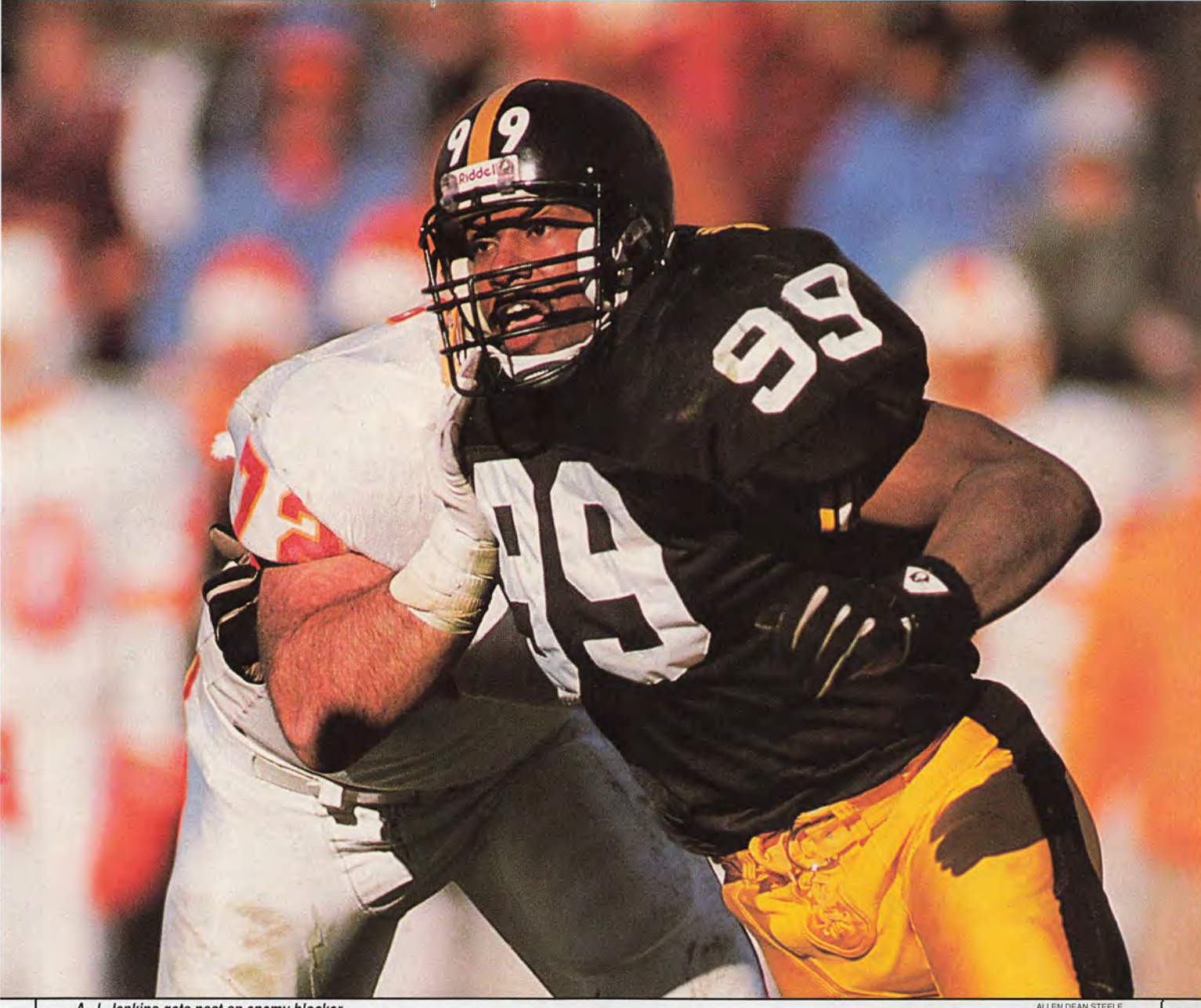
The reason for so much hope in Pittsburgh is the strong belief that the turnaround of 1989 was no fluke. Many in the franchise had good feelings going into 1989 and were stunned by the first two losses. They are young — 30 players on their roster were in their third pro season or less last year. They have budding star-quality players and a coach who, after taking some post-Super Bowl bashings in the 1980s from critics, soared to new popularity in 1989, even winning two coach of the year awards.

In waking up the echoes of the '70s, the Steelers have taken on a resemblance in some ways to those teams. Noll, of course, is still their coach, preaching the same philosophies. A fast-talking, good-looking young man from Louisiana is their quarterback and they seem to have re-established the running game behind two bruising backs and the trap-blocking that Noll prefers.

Surprisingly, Pittsburgh had its worst rushing season in Noll's 21 years in 1989, averaging just 3.6 yards a carry. But judge them by their finish. In the second half of the season, rookie halfback Tim Worley found his NFL feet, fullback Merril Hoge got healthy and the Steelers possessed the kind of running attack that evoked memories of Franco Harris and Rocky Bleier.

Worley, off to a slow start, gained 417 of his team-leading 770 yards in the final five games. Hoge, 25, was bothered part of the season by a hamstring pull and other minor injuries one year after he led the Steelers in rushing. He then exploded down the stretch last season and gained 310 yards in his final three games, including 220 yards in the playoffs. No Steeler, not even Franco Harris, ever rushed for 100 yards in two straight playoff games. Also, he caught 34 passes last season.

Brister has been compared to Terry Bradshaw ever since he was drafted on the third round in 1986 and came equipped with a Louisiana drawl. Brister has a strong, accurate arm, excellent mobility and is the team's emotional leader.He also improved his per-



A. J. Jenkins gets past an enemy blocker.

ALLEN DEAN STEELE

formance in his second season as a starter even though a knee injury in the fifth game kept him out two games and made him less effective in the second half of the season. He improved his pass completion percentage from 45.3 in 1988 to 54.7 in 1989.

"Bubby's made great progress in getting a feel for what we're trying to do offensively," Noll said. "He handled the blitzes very well. People who have tried to come after us have been burned by his ability to get rid of the ball quickly."

Brister should improve even more under Joe Walton, the former New York Jets' coach who was hired as offensive coordinator after Tom Moore left to join the Minnesota Vikings. Walton is noted for developing young quarterbacks; and, he prefers the high percentage passing game. He will also work with Randy Wright, 29, the former Green Bay quarterback signed as a free agent to back up Brister after veteran Todd Blackledge was let go.

The offense, last in the NFL statistically in 1989, should be strong this season provided the Steelers can find at least one more good wide receiver. Louis Lipps had his second-straight productive season after injuries hindered him in '86 and '87. He led Pittsburgh with 50 catches for 944 yards and an 18.9-yard average, the second highest among the top 20 receivers in the American Conference. Derek Hill, their third-round draft pick last year, may provide a much-needed compliment to Lipps. He emerged as the other starter at wide receiver over the second half of the season and caught 28 passes for 455 yards.

Halfback Rodney Carter, used as a receiving specialist, was second behind Lipps with 38 receptions before a knee injury kept him sidelined in the playoffs. His role could change somewhat because Walton likes to keep the tight ends in the ballgame and throw to them, something the Steelers are not used to.

They finally found a good tight end in Mike Mularkey, who joined them last season under Plan B from Minnesota. Although he caught only 22 passes, it was the most by a Steelers tight end in six years. His catches could double under Walton.

By the end of the season, Pittsburgh's offensive line was playing better than it had in years. A patchwork line was a big reason the Steelers struggled early in the season. Because of injuries, they began the season with several linemen out of position — guards John Rienstra and Craig Wolfley were playing tackle and rookie tackle Tom Ricketts was playing guard. By the fifth game, everyone was in place and the offensive line remained virtually intact with John Jackson at

Bubby Brister has big dreams in Pittsburgh.

TIM DEFRISCO / ALLSPORT

left tackle, Rienstra at left guard, Dermontti Dawson at center, Terry Long at right guard and Tunch Ilkin at right tackle.

Ilkin, waived and re-signed by the Steelers as a rookie, made his second straight Pro Bowl. Rienstra was dominating by the end of the season, playing the way the Steelers had hoped he would when they drafted him in the first round in 1986. After starting 102 games in 10 years with the Steelers, Wolfley left for the Vikings under Plan B in March.

Dawson, a second-round pick in 1988, replaced the departed Mike Webster at center last season, but has not yet made anyone forget the future Hall of Famer. He is a natural guard and the Steelers had thought of moving him back there, but Noll thinks his future is at center.

"He had a good year at center," Noll said, "and I think he will probably remain there right now. He gave us a dimension that really helps, some explosive quickness at that position."

Pittsburgh applied some Rust to its old Steel Curtain defense last season and showed some improvement, climbing from last in the league to 19th. They still have a long way to go, and they'll have to do it without Rod Rust, their one-year defensive coordinator who became head coach of the New England Patriots in February. Dave Brazil was promoted from linebackers coach to defensive coordinator and his task is to continue with Rust's read and react system that took the defense so long to learn last year. Bob Valesente, the former defensive coordinator at Pitt, was hired as linebacker coach.

Pittsburgh's defense gradually improved in '89 as the players took to the new system, which operates under a 3-4. They became more aggressive also, finishing third in the NFL with 42 turnovers. By the end, the defense had improved noticeably against the rush. They held just one opponent under 100 yards rushing in their first 11 games. Counting the playoffs, they limited four teams to fewer than 100 yards over the final seven games.

"When we were bad, we were bad early," said free safety Thomas Everett.

The word "bad" meant good for linebacker Greg Lloyd. A little-known player from tiny Fort Valley State when the Steelers made him a sixth-round draft pick in 1987, Lloyd was one of their best players last season while acquiring a bad-boy image. Coach Jerry Glanville, who nurtured a similar image with the Houston Oilers, picked Lloyd on his all-nasty team.

"I'm not working on an image," said Lloyd. "That's how I play. I'm an intense player."

The Steelers spread their pass rush around and do not feature one man, but Lloyd led them with seven sacks. He was second on the team in tackles and tied for second with three interceptions. Lloyd had far more production at right outside linebacker than his well-known predecessor, Mike Merriweather.

Another, good young outside linebacker who may stake his claim to a job this season is Jerrol Williams, Pittsburgh's fourth-round draft choice last year. He had three sacks in his first two games after Bryan Hinkle broke his leg.Hinkle, 31, returned to the starting lineup after missing just three games but may have trouble holding off the 6-foot-5 youngster this season.The Steelers need more depth at inside linebacker, where veterans David Little and Hardy Nickerson give them heady, steady play.

Rod Woodson became a star in his third season, a cornerback capable of dominating a game. He made his first Pro Bowl as a return specialist, but the Steelers believe he should have made it at his position as well. Dwayne Woodruff, 32, started every game at cornerback, but the only remaining Steeler with a Super Bowl ring will have a hard time holding onto his job this season. Strong safety Carnell Lake had a sensational rookie season and free safety Thomas Everett had his first injury-free year.

The defensive line improved but still has a way to go. End Keith Willis, who missed the 1988 season with a neck injury, finished second on the team with 6 1/2 sacks. End Tim Johnson was the best lineman before he suffered injuries midway through the season. Gerald Williams is a quick nose tackle who has sideline-to-sideline mobility.

Gary Anderson, voted the NFL's second-best place-kicker in the decade of the 1980s, is still going strong at the start of a new decade.

Many think the Steelers, the Team of the '70s, can regain their lost status in the 1990s.

"Let's play the '90s and find out," said Noll.❑

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
1	**Anderson**, Gary	PK	5-11	180	9	Syracuse
60	**Blankenship**, Brian	G-C	6-1	275	4	Nebraska
6	**Brister**, Bubby	QB	6-3	210	5	Northeast Louisiana
72	**Buddenberg**, John	OT	6-5	275	R	Akron
24	**Carter**, Rodney	RB	6-0	210	4	Purdue
61	**Cullinane**, Gene	C	6-4	278	R	Washburn
63	**Dawson**, Dermontti	C-G	6-2	275	3	Kentucky
27	**Everett**, Thomas	FS	5-9	184	4	Baylor
68	**Freeman**, Lorenzo	NT	6-5	298	4	Pittsburgh
66	**Fryar**, Jeff	OT	6-6	290	R	Indiana
76	**Gouldsby**, Mace	DT	6-2	290	R	San Jose State
22	**Griffin**,, Larry	S	6-0	200	5	North Carolina
FA	**Griggs**, Billy	TE	6-3	230	6	Virginia
35	**Hall**, Delton	CB	6-1	207	4	Clemson
77	**Haselrig**, Carlton	NT	6-1	273	R	Pittsburgh-Johnstown
82	**Hill**, Derek	WR	6-1	193	2	Arizona
53	**Hinkle**, Bryan	LB	6-2	225	9	Oregon
33	**Hoge**, Merril	RB	6-2	230	4	Idaho State
FA	**Holmes**, Darryl	DB	6-2	190	3	Fort Valley State
62	**Ilkin**, Tunch	OT	6-3	266	11	Indiana State
65	**Jackson**, John	OT	6-6	288	3	Eastern Kentucky
99	**Jenkins**, A.J.	LB-DE	6-2	237	2	Cal State-Fullerton
44	**Johnson**, David	CB	6-0	185	2	Kentucky
78	**Johnson**, Tim	DE-DT	6-3	269	4	Penn State
97	**Jones**, Aaron	DE	6-5	257	3	Eastern Kentucky
48	**Kirk**, Vernon	TE	6-2	245	R	Pittsburgh
37	**Lake**, Carnell	SS	6-1	205	2	UCLA
51	**Lanza**, Chuck	C	6-2	260	3	Notre Dame
83	**Lipps**, Louis	WR	5-10	190	7	Southern Mississippi
50	**Little**, David	LB	6-1	233	10	Florida
95	**Lloyd**, Greg	LB	6-2	222	3	Fort Valley State
74	**Long**, Terry	G	5-11	275	7	East Carolina
84	**Mularkey**, Mike	TE	6-4	237	8	Florida
54	**Nickerson**, Hardy	LB	6-2	231	4	California
92	**Olsavsky**, Jerry	LB	6-1	222	2	Pittsburgh
85	**O'Shea**, Terry	TE	6-4	236	2	California (PA)
28	**Owens**, Billy	CB	6-2	198	2	Pittsburgh
71	**Ricketts**, Tom	OT	6-5	298	2	Pittsburgh
79	**Rienstra**, John	G	6-5	264	5	Temple
FA	**Romer**, Rich	LB	6-3	214	3	Union College
FA	**Roundtree**, Ray	WR	6-0	182	2	Penn State
FA	**Shelton**, Richard	CB	5-11	186	2	Liberty
80	**Stock**, Mark	WR	5-11	177	2	Virginia Military Institute
20	**Stone**, Dwight	WR-RB	6-0	190	4	Middle Tennessee State
90	**Stowe**, Tyronne	LB	6-1	236	4	Rutgers
11	**Strom**, Rick	QB	6-2	210	2	Georgia Tech
FA	**Stryzinski**, Dan	P	6-1	195	R	Indiana
87	**Thompson**, Weegie	WR	6-6	215	7	Florida State
23	**Tyrell**, Tim	RB	6-2	215	7	Northern Illinois
43	**Wallace**, Ray	RB	6-0	233	4	Purdue
98	**Williams**, Gerald	NT	6-3	279	5	Auburn
52	**Williams**, Jerrol	LB	6-5	242	2	Purdue
FA	**Williams**, Marlin	DE	6-3	253	R	Western Illinois
42	**Williams**, Warren	RB	6-0	204	3	Miami (FL)
93	**Willis**, Keith	DE	6-1	263	8	Northeastern
49	**Woodruff**, Dwayne	CB	6-0	195	11	Louisville
26	**Woodson**, Rod	CB-KR	6-0	196	4	Purdue
38	**Worley**, Tim	RB	6-2	228	2	Georgia
9	**Wright**, Randy	QB	6-2	203	6	Wisconsin

STEELERS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Eric **GREEN** *TE*	6-5, 274	**Liberty University**	One of the premier blockers at his position . . . Recently timed at 4.79 in the 40 . . . Holds the school record for the best bench press (345 pounds) by a tight end . . . Has the speed to excel as a deep threat . . . Led the team and ranked 16th in the nation with a career high 62 receptions for 902 yards (14.6 avg.) and 10 TDs in 1989.
2	Kenneth **DAVIDSON** *DE*	6-5, 274	**Louisiana State**	Rising star with a fine combination of raw power and quickness . . . Very aggressive pass rusher with excellent outside moves . . . One of the team's strongest players . . . Recently timed at 4.64 in the 40 . . . Recorded 31 tackles (22 solos) with 2 sacks and 4 stops for 14 yards in losses.
3	Neil **O'DONNELL** *QB*	6-2, 217	**Maryland**	Closed out his career second on the Terps' all-time list with 387 of 658 passes for 4,989 yards and 26 TDs, behind Boomer Esiason's records . . . Rated the top quarterback prospect in the country by The NFL Draft Report . . . Completed 156 of 280 passes (55.9%) for 2,103 yards, 10 TDs and only 4 interceptions in 1989.
3	Craig **VEASEY** *DT-DE*	6-2, 270	**Houston**	All-Southwest Conference . . . Recorded 81 tackles (42 solos) with 13 sacks and 21 tackles for 118 yards in losses.
4	Chris **CALLOWAY** *WR*	5-10, 176	**Michigan**	Team's second leading receiver with 392 total yards . . . Tied for second on the team with 3 TD receptions.
5	Barry **FOSTER** *FB*	5-10, 222	**Arkansas**	Excellent receiver coming out of the backfield and a willing blocker . . . Recently timed at 4.57 in the 40 . . . Despite only two years in the starting lineup, ranks sixth on the school's all-time rushing list with 1,977 yards . . . In 1989, rushed 154 times for 833 yards (5.4 avg.) and 7 TDs.
6	Ron **HEARD** *WR*	5-10, 177	**Bowling Green**	Ranks third on the school all-time list with 139 receptions and second with 2,491 yards receiving . . . Has 4.49 speed in the 40 . . . Unanimous All-Mid-American Conference selection . . . Led the league with a career high 51 receptions for 916 yards (18.0 avg.) and 7 TDs in 1989.
7	Dan **GRAYSON** *LB*	6-2, 239	**Washington State**	JUCO transfer who played two years at tight end before playing both seasons at WSU as inside linebacker . . . Team captain and called defensive signals . . . Named All-Pac-10 in 1989 . . . Led team and ranked fifth in Pac-10 in tackles with 133 (84 solos).
8	Karl **DUNBAR** *DL*	6-4, 273	**Louisiana State**	Hampered throughout senior season with foot injury . . . Can play nose tackle or defensive tackle . . . Finished with 60 tackles (38 solos) to rank 16th among SEC down linemen.
9	Gary **JONES** *SS*	6-1, 203	**Texas A&M**	One of the hardest hitting tacklers at his position in the country . . . Has 4.43 speed in the 40 . . . Third team All-American choice . . . Made 52 tackles (34 solos) . . . Caused and recovered 1 fumble . . . Deflected 2 passes and picked off another.
10	Eddie **MILES** *LB*	6-1, 233	**Minnesota**	Starter at defensive end who will make conversion to outside linebacker . . . Timed at 4.65 in the 40 . . . Made 12 tackles for loss to tie for sixth in the Big 10 Conference in 1989.
11	Justin **STRZELCZYK** *OT*	6-5, 272	**Maine**	Played defensive tackle and defensive end in college, will be converted to offensive tackle . . . Began college career as tight end for first two seasons . . . Moved to defensive tackle as a junior.
12	Richard **BELL** *WR*	6-0, 196	**Nebraska**	Cat-quick runner who is a threat to score catching, returning or running with the ball . . . Recently timed at 4.63 in the 40 . . . Caught 18 passes for 357 yards (19.8 avg.) and 4 TDs . . . Rushed 24 times for 261 yards (10.9 avg.) and returned 6 kickoffs for 130 yards (21.7 avg.) and 18 punts for 125 yards.

STEELERS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	STEELERS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	244	323
Rushing	106	112
Passing	117	177
Penalty	21	34
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	66/209	106/229
4th Down: Made/Atts.	6/19	7/20
TOTAL NET YARDS	3996	5549
Avg. Per Game	249.8	346.8
Total Plays	955	1077
Avg. Per Play	4.2	5.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	1818	2008
Avg. Per Game	113.6	125.5
Total Rushes	500	498
NET YARDS PASSING	2178	3541
Avg. Per Game	136.1	221.3
Tackled/Yards Lost	51/484	31/180
Gross Yards	2662	3721
Attempts/Completions	404/210	548/290
Pct. of Completions	52.0	52.9
Had Intercepted	13	21
PUNTS/AVERAGE	83/40.6	69/40.5
NET PUNTING AVG.	34.1	33.8
PENALTIES/YARDS	116/986	96/785
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	32/18	40/21
TOUCHDOWNS	29	38
Rushing	17	16
Passing	10	17
Returns	2	5

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
STEELERS	57	91	72	45	0	265
OPP. TOTAL	78	110	60	78	0	326

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Anderson	2-2	5-5	5-8	9-15	0-0	21-30

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Worley	195	770	3.9	38	5
Hoge	186	621	3.3	31	8
Lipps	13	180	13.8	t58	1

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Lipps	50	944	18.9	t79	5
Carter	38	267	7.0	t22	3
Hoge	34	271	8.0	22	0
Hill	28	455	16.3	53	1
Mularkey	22	326	14.8	34	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Woodruff	4	57	14.3	35	0
Everett	3	68	22.7	32	0
Lloyd	3	49	16.3	31	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Newsome	82	3368	41.1	9	15	57	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Woodson	29	2	207	7.1	20	0
Hill	5	0	22	4.4	12	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Woodson	36	982	27.3	t84	1
Stone	7	173	24.7	73	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Brister	342	187	2365	54.7	6.92	9	2.6	10	2.9	t79	45/452	73.1
Blackledge	60	22	282	36.7	4.70	1	1.7	3	5.0	30	4/25	36.9

CINCINNATI BENGALS

WHICH VERSION OF THE BENGALS WILL SHOW UP?

BY JACK BRENNAN

No one knows what to expect of the Cincinnati Bengals in 1990, and for good reason. No NFL team has made more preseason prognosticators look silly in the last three years than the Bengals.

In 1987, coming off a 10-6 season, they were a popular pick for the AFC Championship but finished 4-11. In 1988, they were deemed to have made a suicidal decision in keeping Sam Wyche, a most beleaguered Head Coach. Yet they finished 12-4 and won the AFC title, with Wyche as conference Coach-of-the-Year.

And in 1989, they went from near-conquerors of the mighty 49ers to flops of notable proportion. They finished last in the tough AFC Central Division, and though their 8-8 record was not disgraceful on its face, history instructs that it represented a pitiful performance by a returning Super Bowl loser.

Though Super Bowl winners have often been disappointments the following season, Super Bowl losers have rarely been such. The 1989 Bengals were only the second returning Super Bowl loser to post a non-winning record, and only the second Super Bowl loser since the 1970 merger not to return to the playoffs.

Somehow, this team grew fat and comfortable from an experience that has left most teams lean and hungry.

"We hit the field too many times (in 1989) believing we could win just by stepping on the field," said quarterback Boomer Esiason. "As hard as we tried to avoid a letdown, the concentration and focus just wasn't there."

"We didn't have the same edge we had during our Super Bowl year," agrees Head Coach Wyche. "But we know the problem now, and I think we'll be hungry again."

If that's so, there's no reason to believe Cincinnati can't claw its way back to the top of the NFL's most balanced division. Anyone doubting that the Bengals were far too talented to finish .500 in '89 need look at only one statistic:

The Bengals scored 404 points last season and allowed only 285. They would blow an opponent out one week and blow countless opportunities in losing the following week. They lost to the Raiders after crushing

Tampa Bay 56-23, lost to Buffalo after demolishing Detroit 42-7, and fell at Minnesota (expiring as a playoff contender) after making hash of Houston 61-7.

"You can't say anybody on this team had a really good season, because we were so inconsistent," says Esiason, the AFC's leading passer for two years running.

The Bengals' prime concerns entering 1990, aside from regaining some mental toughness, are these:

• Can management sign its large list of conditional free agents in time to avoid strife in training camp? Stars such as tackle Anthony Munoz, safety David Fulcher and receiver Tim McGee were unsigned at press time, and running back James Brooks was looking for a fat new deal as he entered his option year.

• Will Ickey Woods, the sensational power-rushing rookie of 1988, come back all the way from major knee surgery that shelved him for the last 11 weeks of 1989?

• Can the defense, still the stepchild of this team, improve on anemic 1989 performances in rushing the passer and stopping the run?

"Our defense against the rush is probably the No. 1 thing on my mind," said Wyche, whose troops ranked 27th in run defense. "I truly believe we're not that far away from being a lot better, but we won't hesitate to make changes where they're needed."

Wyche would love to find a 245-pound bruiser to play inside linebacker. He isn't satisfied with the run-stopping abilities of incumbent inside linebackers Carl Zander and Joe Kelly, and the Bengals hoped to sign a veteran free agent in this role. Wyche also is considering moving 245-pound end Jim Skow to a linebacking position.

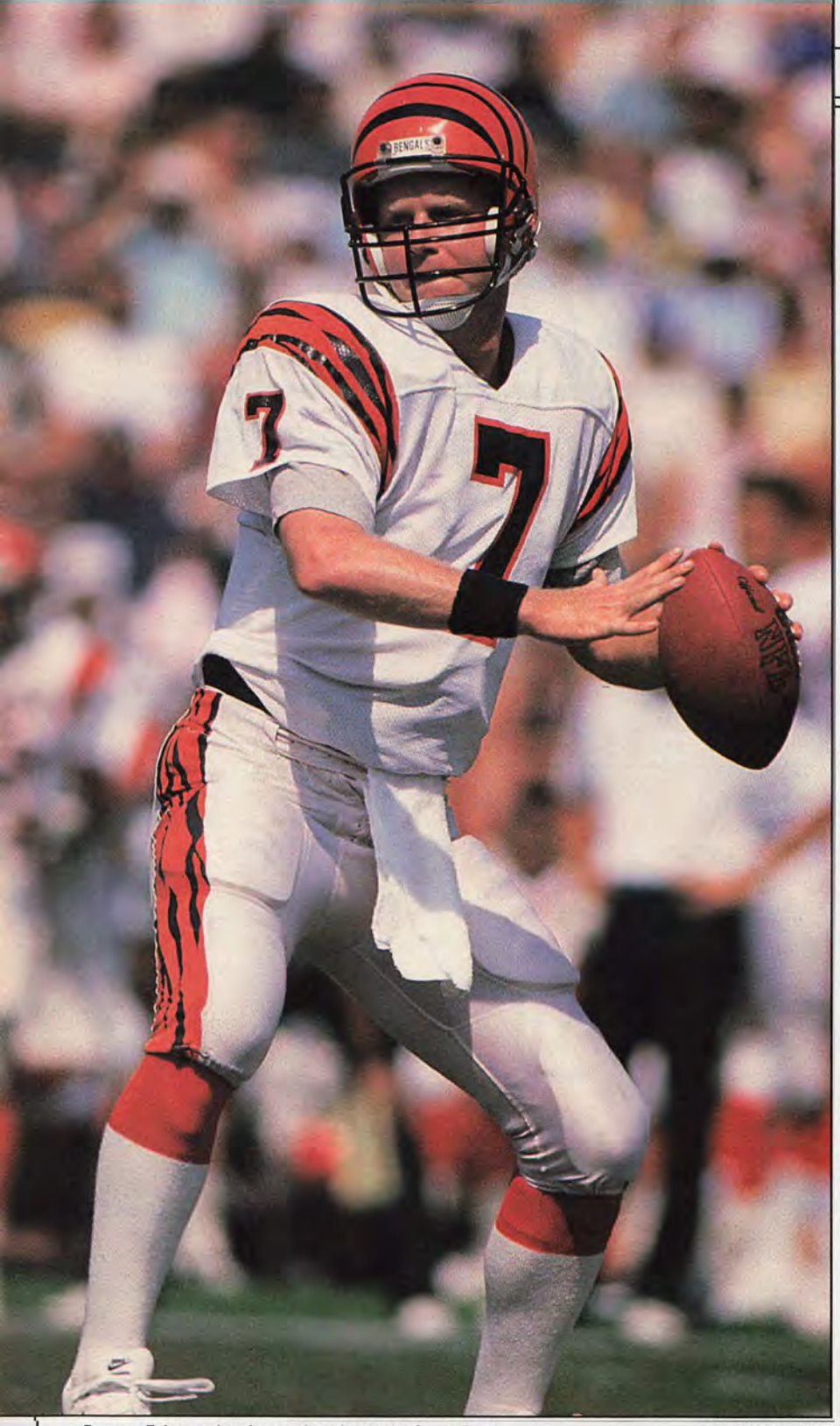
It's also possible the Bengals will switch their base defense from a 3-4 to a 4-3 front in 1990, particularly if the draft yields more promise at defensive line. Cincinnati's linebacking corps is shallow after the retirement of veteran Reggie Williams, while the defensive line has promising young players like David Grant and Natu Tuatagaloa who need spots to play.

The Bengals hoped to get one outstanding pass rusher from a talent-rich draft, either at end or outside linebacker. It could be all they need to revive a pass rush that ranked 21st in the league with only 33 sacks.

"We don't have a Reggie White or a Lawrence Taylor — the one great pass rusher offenses have to account for on every play — but that doesn't mean we can't be more effective," says Wyche. "We were much better in 1988 with basically the same people.

"Pass rushing can be a team skill as well, a function of people working well together. We just need a little help, plus a little better effort from the people we have."

But another huge key to defensive re-



Boomer Esiason aims for another shot at the Super Bowl. ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

vival will be the continued comeback effort of nose tackle Tim Krumrie.

Arguably the best nose man in the league before suffering a broken leg in Super Bowl XXII, Krumrie started every game last season but didn't dominate as before. Though he's still a quality NFL player, it's questionable whether he'll ever again be a great one.

The Bengals' secondary should once again be one of the NFL's best — providing that all hands are signed for training camp.

The 235-pound Fulcher, a strong safety with a linebacker's power, is a solid pass defender and a vital link in the run defense. Cornerback Eric Thomas had another fine year in '89 (the Bengals believed he should have been in the Pro Bowl a second straight year), and though Lewis Billups dropped off a bit at the other corner, he's still a good, young player.

However, all of the above three were conditional free agents at press time.

The free safety position is in the hands of talented third-year man Rickey Dixon. He gave up too many big pass plays in '89, but the Bengals are confident that he'll emerge as a Pro Bowl candidate soon.

The only Cincinnati linebacker with a sure starting job in 1990 is outside man Leon White. He's an average physical specimen but has a knack, proven over several years, for making game-turning plays. Leo Barker is a solid reserve who starts on the nickel defense.

Offensively, Cincinnati continues to have one of the NFL's top assortment of quality players. The Bengals were fourth in the league in scoring in 1989, third in total offense, first in rushing offense and seventh in passing offense.

But there is a weakness hidden in those statistics. Though the Bengals led the league in rushing, thanks to a team-record 1,239 yards from scatback Brooks and 278 more from Esiason, the top total among AFC quarterbacks, they were not a reliable team in critical short-yardage situations.

"Fullback is probably our most uncertain position," says Wyche. "Ickey Woods' return, and the quality of his return, is obviously a critical factor."

If Woods isn't ready to make the tough yards come easily, the fullback job could fall to Craig Taylor, a fifth-round draft pick who showed promise late in the season. Eric Ball is also in the picture, but the 1989 second-round draft pick couldn't beat a rap of being injury-prone as a rookie. He also had some fumbling problems while collecting 391 yards.

Brooks is 31 — old by normal standards for a halfback — but he keeps his body fine tuned like few other players in the game. He appears to have several great years left.

Cincinnati's first two wide receivers could be as good as any tandem in the game.

Starting split end McGee had a great year (65 catches for 1,211 yards, the second-most yards in club history). Eddie Brown, the flanker, caught 52 balls for 814 yards and was considered something of a disappointment. Brown set the club yardage record in 1988 (with 1,237) and needs to lick a disturbing habit of dropping easy balls.

Cincinnati's offense calls for frequent use of multiple wide receiver sets, and the Bengals didn't get the performances they wanted from veteran backups Mike Martin (17 catches) and Ira Hillary (15). Rookie Kendal Smith caught only 10 but may be poised to take over the No. 3 spot.

"We need somebody to take his performance up a notch among our third and fourth receivers," said Wyche, "and we might be looking at some new people there."

No help is needed at tight end. Rodney Holman missed all of '89 training camp in a contract holdout, finally got himself a fat raise (from

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
42	**Ball**, Eric	RB	6-2	211	2	UCLA
35	**Barber**, Chris	S	6-0	187	3	North Carolina A&I
86	**Barber**, Mike	WR	5-11	172	2	Marshall
53	**Barker**, Leo	LB	6-2	227	7	New Mexico State
24	**Billups**, Lewis	CB	5-11	179	5	North Alabama
74	**Blados**, Brian	G	6-5	296	7	North Carolina
55	**Brady**, Ed	LB	6-2	236	7	Illinois
3	**Breech**, Jim	K	5-6	161	12	California
21	**Brooks**, James	RB	5-10	180	10	Auburn
81	**Brown**, Eddie	WR	6-0	185	6	Miami (FL)
99	**Buck**, Jason	DE	6-5	258	4	Brigham Young
27	**Bussey**, Barney	S	6-0	206	5	South Carolina State
34	**Carey**, Richard	CB	5-9	185	2	Idaho
56	**Chenault**, Chris	LB	6-2	240	1	Kentucky
29	**Dixon**, Rickey	FS	5-11	196	3	Oklahoma
7	**Esiason**, Boomer	QB	6-5	215	7	Maryland
33	**Fulcher**, David	S	6-3	234	5	Arizona State
16	**Gelbaugh**, Stan	QB	6-3	205	3	Maryland
89	**Garrett**, John	WR	5-11	180	2	Princeton
98	**Grant**, David	NT	6-4	288	3	West Virginia
71	**Hammerstein**, Mike	DE	6-4	272	4	Michigan
82	**Holman**, Rodney	TE	6-3	238	9	Tulane
40	**Holifield**, John	RB	6-0	202	2	West Virginia
37	**Jackson**, Robert	S	5-10	186	8	Central Michigan
36	**Jennings**, Stanford	RB	6-1	209	7	Furman
68	**Jetton**, Paul	G	6-4	288	2	Texas
11	**Johnson**, Lee	P-K	6-2	200	6	Brigham Young
77	**Jones**, Scott	T	6-5	278	2	Washington
84	**Kattus**, Eric	TE	6-5	241	5	Michigan
58	**Kelly**, Joe	LB	6-2	235	5	Washington
64	**Kozerski**, Bruce	C	6-4	287	7	Holy Cross
69	**Krumrie**, Tim	NT	6-2	267	8	Wisconsin-Madison
88	**Martin**, Mike	WR	5-10	181	8	Illinois
72	**McClendon**, Skip	DE	6-7	283	4	Arizona State
85	**McGee**, Tim	WR	5-10	179	5	Tennessee
73	**Moyer**, Ken	T	6-6	292	2	Toledo
78	**Munoz**, Anthony	T	6-6	284	11	USC
94	**Murray**, Dan	LB	6-1	243	R	East Stroudsburg
26	**Palmer**, Paul	RB	5-9	181	4	Temple
10	**Philcox**, Todd	QB	6-4	209	1	Syracuse
75	**Reimers**, Bruce	T	6-7	294	7	Iowa State
87	**Riggs**, Jim	TE	6-5	245	4	Clemson
15	**Schonert**, Turk	QB	6-1	196	11	Stanford
47	**Simpson**, John	WR	6-0	172	R	Baylor
70	**Skow**, Jim	DE	6-3	243	5	Nebraska
83	**Smith**, Kendal	WR	5-9	189	2	Utah State
20	**Taylor**, Craig	RB	5-11	224	2	West Virginia
22	**Thomas**, Eric	CB	5-11	181	4	Tulane
96	**Tuatagaloa**, Natu	DE	6-4	265	3	California
59	**Walker**, Kevin	LB	6-3	233	3	Maryland
63	**Walter**, Joe	T	6-6	290	6	Texas Tech
79	**Wells**, Dana	NT	6-1	265	1	Arizona
51	**White**, Leon	LB	6-3	237	5	Brigham Young
46	**White**, Todd	WR-KR	6-0	188	R	Cal-Fullerton
41	**Wilcots**, Solomon	CB	5-11	190	4	Colorado
12	**Wilhelm**, Erik	QB	6-3	210	2	Oregon State
30	**Woods**, Ickey	RB	6-2	232	3	UNLV
91	**Zander**, Carl	LB	6-2	235	6	Tennessee

BENGALS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	James **FRANCIS** *OLB*	6-5, 243	**Baylor**	All-American selection by The Sporting News, Kodak and the AP . . . All-Southwest Conference choice . . . Recorded 129 tackles (72 solos, 8 sacks and 12 stops behind the line . . . Caused and recovered 3 fumbles . . . Set a school season record with 8 blocked kicks . . . Intercepted 4 passes for 99 yards in returns and 1 TD.
2	Harold **GREEN** *TB*	6-2, 216	**South Carolina**	Has great receiving skills and is a willing blocker . . . Ranks second on the Gamecocks' all-time rushing list with 3,005 yards . . . Tied George Rogers (1977-80) with 33 TDs on the ground . . . Ranks fourth on the career list with 94 receptions . . . Led the team in rushing with 989 yards and 6 TDs on 201 carries in 1989.
3	Bernard **CLARK** *ILB*	6-2, 250	**Miami**	Versatile and intense player . . . Big play specialist known for his tenacious style of play . . . Timed at 4.94 in the 40 . . . All-American honorable mention . . . Finished sixth on the team with 73 tackles (44 solos) including 5 stops for 26 yards in losses.
4	Mike **BRENNAN** *OT*	6-5, 267	**Notre Dame**	Has grown from a 180-pound All-American lacrosse player into one of the most underrated offensive linemen in the country . . . Very physical and intense blocker who retreats well in pass coverage . . . Began his collegiate career as a tight end, moving to offensive guard as a junior.
5	Lynn **JAMES** *WR*	6-0, 191	**Arizona State**	Played tailback, defensive back and wide receiver during his collegiate career . . . Has 4.47 speed in the 40 . . . Caught 27 passes for 574 yards (21.3 avg.) and 4 TDs in 1989.
6	Don **ODEGARD** *CB*	5-11, 177	**Nevada-Las Vegas**	Sturdy tackler who displays great body control and ball reaction . . . Has 4.56 speed in the 40 . . . Came to the Rebels after starting three years at Oregon State . . . Recorded 46 tackles (29 solos) and led the team with 15 pass deflections in 1989.
7	Craig **OGLETREE** *OLB*	6-1, 231	**Auburn**	Second team All-American selection by The Sporting News . . . All-Southeastern Conference . . . Finished third on the team with 113 tackles (54 solos) . . . Led the Tigers with a career high 11 sacks and 14 stops for 74 yards in losses . . . Caused 2 fumbles and deflected 5 passes.
8	Doug **WELLSANDT** *TE*	6-3, 248	**Washington State**	Completed senior season by starting all 11 games while catching 31 passes for 1 TD and 409 yards (13.2 avg.) . . . Made 76 career catches for 925 yards.
9	Mitchell **PRICE** *FS-CB*	5-9, 181	**Tulane**	Superb open field runner with outstanding pass theft skills . . . Has 4.54 speed in the 40 . . . Second team All-South Independent . . . Recorded 56 tackles (39 solos) . . . Deflected 6 passes and picked off 5 others . . . Returned 11 kickoffs for 265 yards (24.1 avg.) and 16 punts for 58 yards.
10	Eric **CRIGLER** *OT*	6-7, 290	**Murray State**	Another walk-on success story . . . Came to MSU on an academic scholarship . . . Dean's List student with a 3.4 GPA . . . All-OVC in 1989 . . . Third team All-American . . . The Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Lineman-of-the-Week once in 1989.
11	Tim **O'CONNOR** *OT*	6-6, 272	**Virginia**	Started at right tackle in the last seven games of the 1989 season . . . Helped lead an offensive line that yielded only 12 sacks during the entire 1989 season.
12	Andre **RILEY** *WR*	5-9, 174	**Washington**	Ranks fifth on the school's all-time list with 64 punt returns for 559 yards . . . Led the team with a career high 53 receptions for 1,039 yards (19.6 avg.) and 4 TDs in 1989.

$217,000 to $558,000) and then proved well worth it with the best season of his career. He remained one of the NFL's best run-blockers and tacked on a career-best receiving season with 50 catches for 736 yards and nine touchdowns.

The Bengals also have two quality back-ups at tight end, fifth-year man Eric Kattus and fourth-year man Jim Riggs. To take advantage of this depth, they began last year using tight ends out of the backfield as blockers for Brooks.

The offensive line, hailed by many as the NFL's best in 1988, had a difficult 1989. An endless rash of minor injuries kept the starting lineup in a state of flux, and right tackle Joe Walter, a superb pass blocker in '88, failed to make a full recovery from a late '88 knee injury.

Line coach Jim McNally says it's "crucial" that Walter come back all the way this season because Brian Blados, who might have replaced him, now is needed at right guard. That spot became open when Pro Bowl player Max Montoya bolted the Bengals in February as a Plan B free agent.

The Bengals thought they had a deal with Montoya. They left him unprotected and paid him a bonus in return for a promise not to leave. But when the Raiders came calling with a $1.6 million deal over two years, Montoya said, "Sayonara."

The rest of the line should stay in good shape with mega-star Anthony Munoz at left tackle, Bruce Reimers at left guard and Bruce Kozerski at center. Paul Jetton, a promising player hampered by injuries his first two seasons, needs to come on to shore up line depth.

The driver of this offensive machine is, of course, Esiason, the only player other than Dan Marino to lead the AFC in passing two years in a row. "When Boomer's at his best, he's as good as anybody around," says Wyche. "He's a guy who plays with a lot of guts and emotion. There's no question that, in the minds of our players, he's the leader of this team."

But despite another year of good statistics (including 28 touchdown passes against 11 interceptions), Esiason didn't show quite the flair for dramatics he had in 1988, when he was the NFL's Most Valuable Player. He needs to drive himself and his teammates just a bit harder in 1989. Because he's the team leader, he has a big responsibility in helping the Bengals regain the mental edge they lost last season.

The Bengals might have made the playoffs despite their other problems in 1989 had it not been for another poor year by their perennially inept special teams. Cincinnati ranked last in the NFL in punt returns, 26th in kickoff returns, tied for 25th in kickoff coverage and tied for 20th in punt coverage. And by acclamation of virtually the whole team, poor punt protection was almost the sole reason behind a crucial, two-point mid-season loss to Houston.

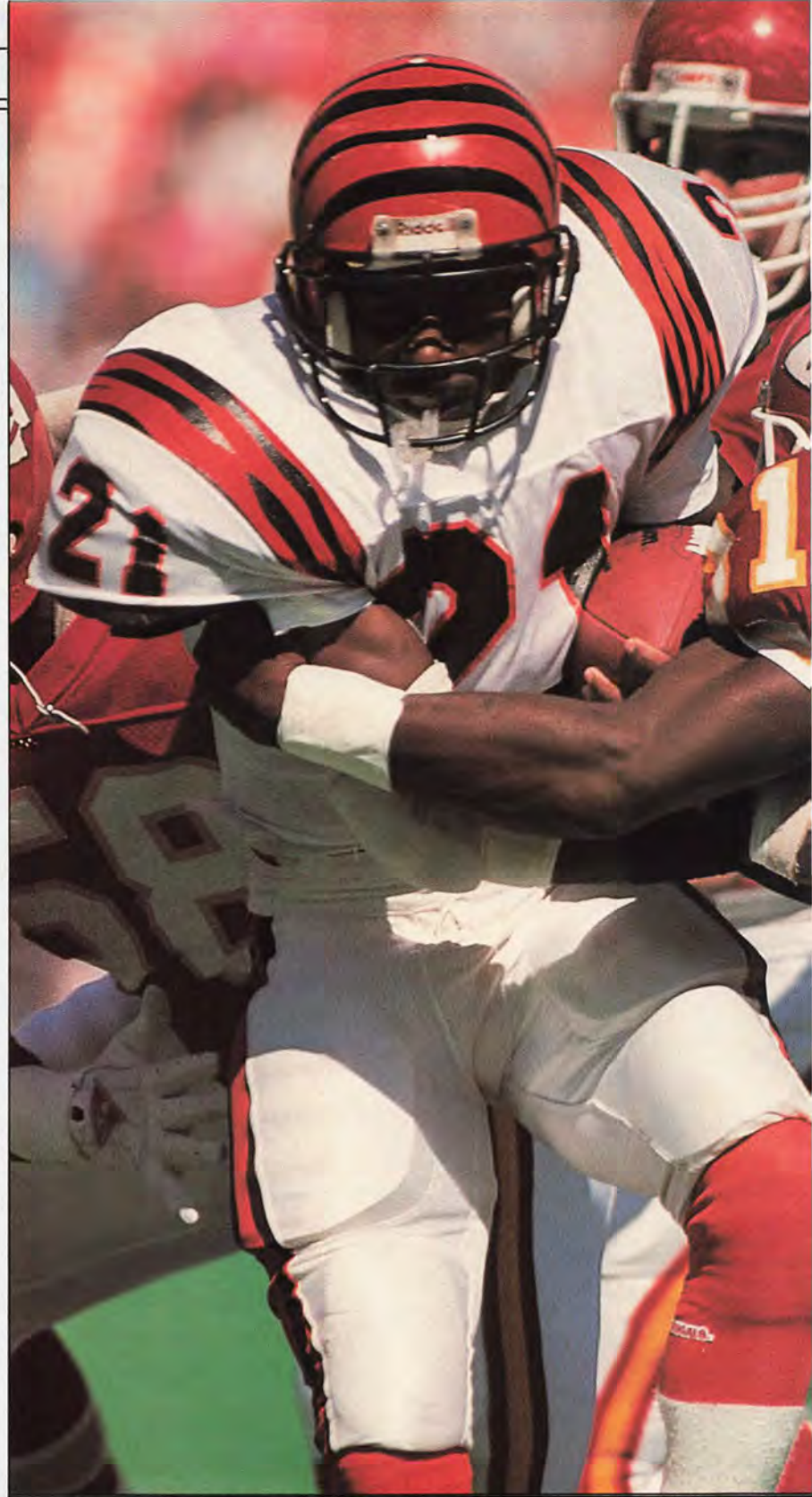
But help could be on the way. Wyche has promised to work harder at obtaining players who are special teams "specialists," and when his offensive coordinator (Bruce Coslet) left to become Head Coach of the New York Jets, he used the vacancy to hire a new special teams coach.

Mike Stock, who had worked hard, but not effectively, since 1987 at reversing the franchise's poor special teams tradition, was moved from special teams' coach to wide receivers' coach. Wyche assumed the offensive coordinator's role, and hired Marv Braden to head the special teams.

Braden, who had been on Gene Stallings' staff at Phoenix, has 13 years experience working with NFL special teams, most of them successful. If he can bring Cincinnati's special units up a couple notches in a hurry, he could be the club's most important new addition.

The Bengals have a solid but not particularly strong place-kicker in Jim Breech, and an average punter with some versatility in Lee Johnson.

Johnson is a fine kickoff man and can sub for Breech when the Bengals need to attempt a field goal in the 48-55 yard range.❑



James Brooks is a top cat in the Bengal offensive scheme. JONATHAN DANIEL / ALLSPORT

BENGALS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	BENGALS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	348	280
Rushing	136	114
Passing	183	151
Penalty	29	15
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	100/220	82/209
4th Down: Made/Atts.	12/24	6/19
TOTAL NET YARDS	6101	5297
Avg. Per Game	381.3	331.1
Total Plays	1083	997
Avg. Per Play	5.6	5.3
NET YARDS RUSHING	2483	2162
Avg. Per Game	155.2	135.1
Total Rushes	529	402
NET YARDS PASSING	3618	3135
Avg. Per Game	226.1	195.9
Tackled/Yards Lost	41/332	33/248
Gross Yards	3950	3383
Attempts/Completions	513/288	482/256
Pct. of Completions	56.1	53.1
Had Intercepted	13	21
PUNTS/AVERAGE	65/38.5	75/39.1
NET PUNTING AVG.	39.9	34.7
PENALTIES/YARDS	95/637	121/1045
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	29/19	26/16
TOUCHDOWNS	52	32
Rushing	17	9
Passing	32	22
Returns	3	1

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
BENGALS	61	147	98	98	0	404
OPP. TOTAL	50	97	56	82	0	285

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Breech	0-0	9-9	3-4	0-1	0-0	12-14
Gallery	0-0	1-1	0-1	1-4	0-0	2-6

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Brooks	221	1239	5.6	t65	7
Ball	98	391	4.0	27	3
Jennings	83	293	3.5	17	2

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
McGee	65	1211	18.6	t74	8
Brown	52	814	15.7	46	6
Holman	50	736	14.7	t73	9
Brooks	37	306	8.3	25	2
Hillary	17	162	9.5	17	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Fulcher	8	87	10.9	22	0
Thomas	4	18	4.5	t18	1
Dixon	3	47	15.7	28	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Johnson	61	2446	40.1	11	14	62	2
Breech	2	58	29.0	1	1	32	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Martin	15	4	107	7.1	17	0
Smith	12	2	54	4.5	15	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Jennings	26	525	20.2	33	0
Hillary	14	223	15.9	29	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Esiason	455	258	3525	56.7	7.75	28	6.2	11	2.4	t74	36/288	92.1
Wilhelm	56	30	425	53.6	7.59	4	7.1	2	3.6	t46	3/17	87.3

CLEVELAND BROWNS

CARSON LOOKS FOR ANSWERS

BY CHUCK MELVIN

The Dawg Days are over in Cleveland. John Elway emphatically closed the door on that era when he destroyed the Browns' once-proud "Dawg" defense with 385 yards passing in last January's AFC Championship Game.

Here was cornerback Hanford Dixon, the self-proclaimed Top Dawg, biting on simple fakes and desperately scrambling after receivers like a mutt chasing passing cars. There was Frank Minnifield, trying to jam an opponent at the line of scrimmage and instead getting jarred to the ground himself. And Cleveland's aging defensive linemen — Al "Bubba" Baker and Carl "Big Daddy" Hairston chief among them — huffed and puffed mightily in Denver's rarefied, mile-high air but rarely put a hand on the Broncos' quarterback.

"We didn't have the speed that I thought we'd have to chase Elway," said Bud Carson, the 58-year-old head coach who saw his defense crumple in the year's final three games.

It was an unsettling ending to an erratic season for the Browns and the rookie Carson, a long-time defensive coordinator (Steelers, Rams, Jets) who was finally given a shot at the leading role when Marty Schottenheimer quit over disagreements with owner Art Modell.

When Carson came aboard, he was well aware of the many strings attached to the job, but he was unaware that they might well strangle him. Modell had already hired an offensive coordinator, 33-year-old Marc Trestman, who had been Bernie Kosar's quarterback coach at the University of Miami. Trestman and Kosar, Carson was told in no uncertain terms, would run the offense, and V-P Ernie Accorsi would run the draft. Carson need only concentrate on his specialty, the defense.

The arrangement predictably caused tensions as soon as the Cleveland offense hit a slump, a four-game stretch in the first half of the season in which the Browns totaled just 47 points. Carson began wondering aloud if it wasn't time he took a more active role in the offense, and he stopped barely short of blaming the swoon on Trestman's play-calling. There were other reasons for the problems, of course, most obviously the absence of fullback Kevin Mack, jailed for a month because of a cocaine conviction. Mack's return late in the year pulled the team out of a second offensive skid (37 points in four games), this one prompted by Kosar's insistence on playing with a bruised right elbow. But already the seeds were planted for the firing of Trestman, which came this February.

Let go at the same time was Jed Hughes, the secondary coach who had had very little success controlling Dixon, Minnifield and the rest of the defensive backs. Their meetings were said to be nearly worthless, and there were reports of defensive backs taking cellular phones along in case they got bored with the Xs and Os on the chalkboard.

Carson, always tempering his bluntness with a naturally good-hearted outlook, was as kind as possible when he shuffled his coaching staff. "I want to say this about Marc and Jed," he said. "They both did a good job for us last season. But now that I've been through a full season as head coach, I plan to change some of the things we did on both offense and defense."

So in spite of winning the AFC Central Division title in his first try, Carson realizes he cannot stand still. Seven of his defensive starters in the conference championship game were 30 years old or older, and Cleveland veterans well remember the last time the team grew old together. That was 1980, when a thirtysomething generation of players like Brian Sipe, Calvin Hill and Reggie Rucker helped the Browns win the division title at 11-5.

The next year, they went 5-11.

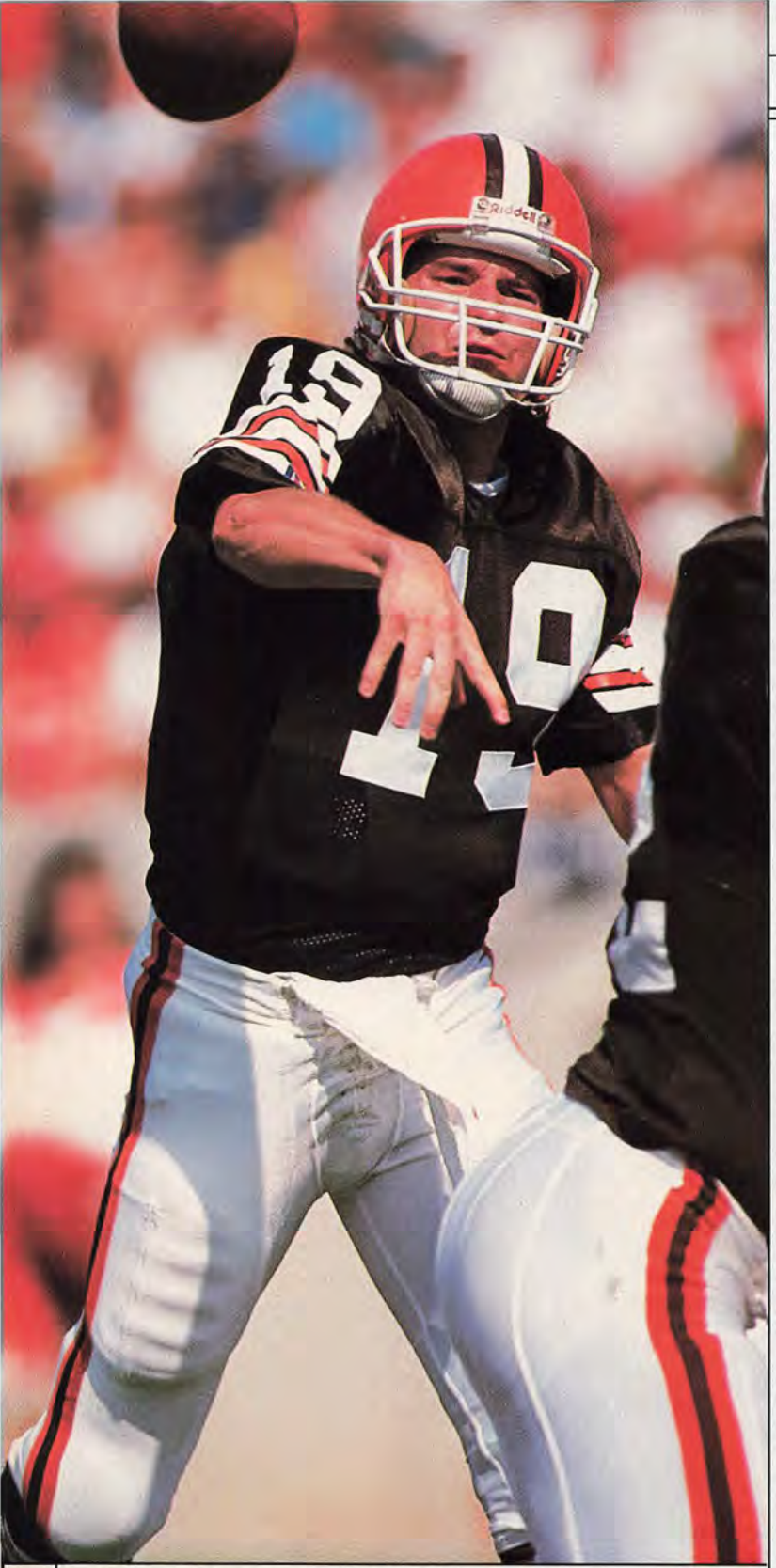
Oddly, Carson's reconstruction plan for 1990 didn't begin with youth, although the opening volleys did address two conspicuous problem areas: the offensive line and the secondary. Thirty-year-old center Mike Baab, whose trade to New England two years ago upset Kosar and rattled the chemistry of the offensive line, has been brought back as a Plan B free agent, and 35-year-old cornerback Raymond Clayborn was signed away from the same team, via the same route, with the goal of taking over the right cornerback slot held by Dixon since 1981.

With Modell turning 65 this year and growing ever more impatient for his first appearance in a Super Bowl, Carson figured he doesn't have the time to build a team around untried youngsters. So he's gambling that players like Baab and Clayborn still have a few good games left. Both signed two-year contracts.

"Clayborn's a rare guy. I've probably

Al Baker hopes the Dawg defense gets a chance to play in the 1991 Super Bowl.
ALLEN DEAN STEELE

STEINKUHLER
70



Bernie Kosar is still Cleveland's main man. ALLEN DEAN STEELE

talked to more people than anyone, and he's still got his speed, his burst and all those things. Chronologically, he's not a young kid, but he plays young as far as I'm concerned," Carson said. "We obviously brought Mike back here to play. It certainly gives us a more competitive situation at center."

Such tinkering aside, Carson's first order of business during the preseason may well be assuaging the ego of Kosar, the $15 million quarterback upon whom Modell has pinned his last hopes of winning it all. Kosar and Trestman were good friends, and it remains to be seen how Kosar will take to new offensive coordinator Jim Shofner, who was Sipe's quarterback coach in Cleveland from 1978 to 1980, and new quarterback coach Zeke Bratkowski, who was backup quarterback Mike Pagel's coach with the Colts in the early '80s. Certainly, the Browns will be quicker to turn to Pagel if Kosar and the offense struggle as they did during their first slump last year, or if Kosar gets banged up as he did in the second half. Trestman, by contrast, remained faithful to Kosar to the extreme, letting him play with a makeshift elastic band on his jammed right finger rather than give Pagel a shot in the conference championship game.

Philosophically, Shofner isn't entirely different from Lindy Infante, the Green Bay coach whose offensive design has remained in place in Cleveland since he installed it as the Browns' offensive coordinator in 1986. Shofner likes using the short pass to set up the bomb and is willing to mix in the run. If Kosar is at all worried about dropping out of the spotlight, he needn't lose any sleep: With Shofner as quarterback coach in 1980, Sipe passed for 4,132 yards and was a consensus choice as the NFL's most valuable player.

"I'm hungry to get into a situation where you have a chance to win," says Shofner, 54, who spent the last four seasons with the Cardinals. "The Browns have been Super Bowl contenders in the last five seasons and have won consistently through the years. I'm one of those who thought Bud Carson did an impressive job last season."

Because Kosar doesn't run well and doesn't throw well when forced out of the pocket, Shofner's biggest chore will be gluing together an offensive line that has been decimated by injuries. Starting guards Dan Fike and Ted Banker both underwent major knee surgery that will sideline them most or all of this season, and tackle Rickey Bolden, for all his reputed potential, traditionally spends more time on the injured list than off it. The Browns ignored the offensive line with their early picks in the 1989 draft, and it cost them.

A possible partial solution: switching last year's starting center, Gregg Rakoczy, to guard, keeping both him and Baab happy.

The skill positions on offense shouldn't change much in 1990. Wide receiver Webster Slaughter had a Pro Bowl season in 1989, catching 65 passes for a team-record 1,236 yards, and Reggie Langhorne was nearly as popular with Kosar, catching the ball 60 times for 749 yards, both career highs. Brian Brennan was a competent third target, grabbing 28 passes for 289 yards; he also provided a silver lining in the January loss at Denver by pulling in two touchdown passes, one of them a stumbling, juggling study in concentration. Lawyer Tillman, Cleveland's No. 2 draft pick in 1989, was a preseason contract holdout and never fully grasped the complicated Infante-Trestman offense, but Carson is hoping a full preseason this year will weave him into the thick of things.

At running back, Mack's return from prison (and a pre-prison knee injury) revived the Browns' offense in the final three games of the regular season, and he single-handedly got them to the playoffs with a bruising four-yard touchdown run in the final minute of the regular-season finale at Houston. Backups Tim Manoa and Barry Redden were unimpressive trying to fill Mack's shoes, so Carson wants to find a big runner who can spell Mack occasionally.

Teaming with Mack in the backfield — as well as playing flanker, and wide receiver, and any other position Carson and Shofner can dream up — will be Eric Metcalf, Terry's son, who gained 1,748

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
61	**Baab**, Mike	C	6-4	270	9	Texas
9	**Bahr**, Matt	K	5-10	175	12	Penn State
60	**Baker**, Al	DE	6-6	280	13	Colorado State
68	**Banker**, Ted	G	6-3	290	7	S.E. Missouri
97	**Banks**, Robert	DE	6-5	255	4	Notre Dame
64	**Baugh**, Tom	C	6-4	290	5	Southern Illinois
24	**Blaylock**, Tony	CB	5-10	190	3	Winston-Salem
77	**Bolden**, Rickey	OT	6-4	280	7	SMU
36	**Braggs**, Stephen	CB	5-9	180	4	Texas
86	**Brennan**, Brian	WR	5-10	185	7	Boston College
94	**Buczkowski**, Bobo	DL	6-5	260	2	Pittsburgh
58	**Charlton**, Clifford	LB	6-3	245	3	Florida
43	**Clack**, Darryl	RB	5-10	220	14	Texas
26	**Clayborn**, Raymond	CB	6-1	186	14	Texas
89	**Darrington**, Charlie	TE	6-3	235	1	Kentucky
25	**Davis**, Anthony	CB	5-10	180	R	Howard
49	**Dillahunt**, Ellis	S	5-11	196	2	East Carolina
87	**Dunn**, K.D.	TE	6-3	237	5	Clemson
74	**Farren**, Paul	T-G	6-6	270	8	Boston University
69	**Fike**, Dan	OG	6-7	285	6	Florida
28	**Florence**, Anthony	CB	6-0	185	1	Bethune-Cookman
27	**Gainer**, Derrick	RB	5-10	220	1	Florida A&M
30	**Gash**, Thane	S	5-11	200	3	East Tennessee State
16	**Gay**, Everett	WR	6-2	209	2	Texas
71	**Gibson**, Tom	DE	6-7	250	2	Northern Arizona
12	**Graham**, Jeff	QB	6-3	196	1	Long Beach State
79	**Graybill**, Mike	OT	6-7	275	1	Boston University
56	**Grayson**, David	LB	6-2	235	4	Fresno State
78	**Hairston**, Carl	DE	6-2	275	15	Maryland-E. Shore
23	**Harper**, Mark	CB	5-9	185	5	Alcorn State
62	**Jefferson**, Ben	OT	6-8	345	1	Maryland
51	**Johnson**, Eddie	LB	6-1	225	10	Louisville
59	**Johnson**, Mike	LB	6-1	225	5	Virginia Tech
80	**Joines**, Vernon	WR	6-2	200	1	Maryland
95	**Jones**, Marlon	DE	6-4	260	3	Central State (OH)
66	**Jones**, Tony	OT	6-5	285	3	Western Carolina
19	**Kosar**, Bernie	QB	6-5	210	6	Miami
40	**Kramer**, Kyle	S	6-3	190	2	Bowling Green
88	**Langhorne**, Reggie	WR	6-2	200	6	Elizabeth City State
75	**Lucas**, Jeff	OT	6-7	282	2	West Virginia
34	**Mack**, Kevin	FB	6-0	230	6	Clemson
42	**Manoa**, Tim	FB	6-1	240	4	Penn State
57	**Matthews**, Clay	LB	6-2	245	13	Southern Cal
53	**McGrew**, Lawrence	LB	6-5	233	10	Southern Cal
21	**Metcalf**, Eric	RB	5-10	185	2	Texas
31	**Minnifield**, Frank	CB	5-9	180	7	Louisville
82	**Newsome**, Ozzie	TE	6-2	225	13	Alabama
33	**Oliphant**, Mike	RB	5-9	170	3	Puget Sound
54	**Owens**, Kerry	LB	6-1	233	1	Arkansas
10	**Pagel**, Mike	QB	6-2	211	9	Arizona State
67	**Patchan**, Matt	OT	6-3	275	3	Miami
92	**Perry**, Michael Dean	DE	6-0	280	3	Clemson
75	**Pike**, Chris	DT	6-8	290	2	Tulsa
73	**Rakoczy**, Gregg	C	6-6-	290	4	Miami
35	**Redden**, Barry	FB	5-10	219	9	Richmond
72	**Robbins**, Kevin	OL	6-4	286	1	Michigan State
52	**Rose**, Ken	LB	6-1	216	4	Nevada-Las Vegas
70	**Simons**, Kevin	OT	6-3	315	1	Tennessee
60	**Sims**, Bob	G	6-3	269	2	Florida
99	**Sims**, Darryl	DE	6-3	275	5	Wisconsin
84	**Slaughter**, Webster	WR	6-0	170	5	San Diego State
71	**Smith**, Dave	OT	6-7	290	2	Southern Illinois
96	**Stewart**, Andrew	DE	6-5	265	2	Cincinnati
90	**Talley**, John	TE	6-6	250	1	West Virginia
65	**Tamm**, Ralph	G-C	6-3	280	1	West Chester
85	**Tillman**, Lawyer	WR	6-5	230	2	Auburn
38	**Tobey**, Bryan	FB	6-1	250	1	Grambling
15	**Wagner**, Bryan	P	6-2	200	4	Cal State-Northridge
50	**Waiters**, Van	LB	6-4	245	3	Indiana
91	**Weston**, Rhondy	DL	6-5	275	2	Florida
41	**Wilkerson**, Gary	CB	6-0	181	1	Penn State
27	**Wright**, Charlie	DB	5-10	178	3	Tulsa
22	**Wright**, Felix	S	6-2	195	6	Drake

BROWNS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
2	Leroy **HOARD** *FB*	6-0, 222	**Michigan**	Versatile performer who can play either tailback or fullback . . . Standout pass blocker . . . Effective receiver who excels as a runner up the middle . . . Started five games at fullback and two contests at tailback . . . Finished second on the team with 724 yards and 6 TDs on 145 carries in 1989 . . . Caught 13 passes for 87 yards.
3	Anthony **PLEASANT** *DL*	6-5, 240	**Tennessee State**	One of the best defensive linemen in TSU history . . . Chosen All-Ohio Valley Conference in 1988 and 1989 . . . Led the team with 9 sacks for 56 yards and 12 tackles for 61 yards in losses.
4	Harlon **BARNETT** *FS*	6-0, 199	**Michigan State**	Fierce hitter with outstanding leaping ability . . . All-American selection by The Sporting News . . . All-Big 10 Conference . . . Finished fourth on the team with 69 tackles (48 solos) . . . Caused 2 fumbles and recovered 3 others . . . Deflected 3 passes and picked off 3 others.
5	Rob **BURNETT** *DE*	6-4, 271	**Syracuse**	Tremendous pass rusher who combines speed, strength and intelligence to rank with the premier defensive linemen in college football . . . Third team All-American . . . All-Eastern College Athletic Conference choice . . . AP All-East pick . . . Recorded 40 tackles (23 solos).
6	Randy **HILLIARD** *CB*	5-10, 162	**Northwestern Louisiana**	One-on-one coverage corner with 4.3 speed who returned 3 of his 10 career interceptions for TDs . . . All-Southland Conference . . . Recorded 56 tackles, 3 interceptions for 73 yards and 1 TD and 8 passes defensed . . . Missed two games with a shoulder injury.
7	Scott **GALBRAITH** *TE*	6-2, 257	**Southern Cal**	Excellent blocking tight end who earned All-Pac-10 honors after his senior and junior seasons . . . Finished career with 51 catches for 571 yards and 5 TDs . . . As a senior, caught 27 passes for 241 yards and 2 TDs.
8	Jock **JONES** *LB*	6-2, 227	**Virginia Tech**	Became Hokies' third leading tackler at ROLB spot as a junior with 73 . . . Made the move to outside linebacker from wingback as a sophomore.
9	Eugene **ROWELL** *WR*	6-0, 184	**Southern Mississippi**	As a senior, was second on team with 28 catches and led team in total receiving yardage with 507 . . . Finished fourth in receiving as a junior with 20 catches for 308 yards (15.4 avg.).
10	Mike **WALLACE** *CB*	6-0, 192	**Jackson State**	Team's best one-on-one defender . . . As a senior, started each game at cornerback, recording 59 tackles (38 solos) with 1 sack and 3 stops for 28 yards in losses . . . Led the team with 25 passes defensed and 5 INTs.
11	Clemente **GORDON** *QB*	6-3, 222	**Grambling State**	Rifle-armed quarterback . . . Southwestern Athletic Conference Offensive Player-of-the-Year . . . Led the conference in passing, completing 159 of 322 throws (49.4%) for 2,687 yards and 26 TDs in 1989.
12	Kerry **SIMIEN** *WR-RS*	5-10, 181	**Texas A&I**	Holds the school career records with 109 punt returns for 1,082 yards and 59 kickoff returns for 1,300 yards . . . Caught a career high 32 passes for 519 yards (16.2 avg.) and 6 TDs in 1989 . . . Returned 26 punts for 266 yards and 10 kickoffs for 227 yards and 1 score.

Versatile Eric Metcalf is a Brown renowned. ALLEN DEAN STEELE

combined yards rushing, receiving and returning kickoffs as a promising rookie last year. Metcalf may forever be remembered for a stunning, bi-directional move that left two would-be Cincinnati tacklers grasping for air on a nationally televised Monday night game last September, but his anemic 3.4-yard rushing average conveyed a problem of some significance: He was nearly useless as a blocker, so every time he walked on the field, the opposition knew where the ball was going. He'll spend the summer working on that.

Ozzie Newsome has decided to unretire again and will be back for another season, but the loss of blocking specialist Ron Middleton to Plan B has lefr the Browns with no depth at tight end, and that must be addressed this summer.

The defense, to be sure, wore out at the end of last year. Witness Warren Moon's 414 yards passing in the regular-season closer; Jim Kelly's 405 yards in Buffalo's divisional playoff loss at Cleveland; and Elway's scalpel-like, 20-for-36, 385-yard performance in the conference championship.

Yet for much of the year, the defense carried the Browns. A team that finished 9-6-1 in spite of two long offensive droughts must have done something right on defense, and Cleveland did, ranking seventh overall in the NFL.

Michael Dean Perry led the way, finally emerging from the considerable shadow cast by his brother, Chicago's "Fridge," and became an all-pro tackle. His quickness melded perfectly with Carson's 4-3 attack defense, which did away with Schottenheimer's old "read-and-react" system and focused on setting a team record for sacks (45). It will be up to Perry and youthful linemates like Andrew Stewart and Chris Pike to take the baton from veterans like Hairston and Baker this year, though both of the elder statesmen insist they can still do the job, too.

At linebacker, 33-year-old Clay Matthews had no trouble adjusting to Carson's 4-3 alignment and turned in one of his best seasons ever, registering four sacks, nine passes deflected, two fumble recoveries and three forced fumbles. Mike Johnson, the poor-man's Mike Singletary, was steady in the middle, and David Grayson was decent on the outside until a neck injury forced him to miss six games. Van Waiters, a down lineman trapped in a linebacker's body, filled in reasonably well for Grayson.

Speed was lacking at the position, however, so Carson hopes to find someone to use at linebacker in nickel situations who is quick enough to cover the running back coming out of the backfield. "You either have to have that big safety that can play linebacker, or the undersized, speed linebacker," he said.

Which brings us again to the Dawgs, the secondary, long the cornerstone of the Cleveland defense. Dixon was left off the Browns' protectedlist and has signed with the 49ers, leaving Minniefield without his sidekick on the corners.

Felix Wright, the strong safety who led the NFL with nine interceptions in 1989, nevertheless seems to have to prove himself every training camp, and this year will be no exception. Thane Gash, the other starting safety, led the Browns with 134 tackles despite having to bounce back from a frightening midseason neck injury. Wright and Gash were the surest of tacklers for most of the year, but they, too, were suspect during the defensive demise at the end.

When all was said and done, Carson was a failure in the one game he was hired to coach. Schottenheimer, after all, got to the AFC Championship Game against Denver twice himself, and was stopped cold both times. Modell, heartbroken by five straight unsuccessful trips to the playoffs, readily forgave Carson for falling short of the Super Bowl as a rookie, but he's not likely to be so understanding this year. Carson doesn't expect him to.

"When I hear people say, 'Well, Pittsburgh looks like the team of the '90s and Houston's in great shape and Cincinnati's in great shape,' and we're down at the bottom of the division, I don't believe that," Carson said. "I'm getting a feel of what has to be done. I've always known how to put out fires. I think that's one of the best things I do. I can get things back on track."❑

BROWNS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	BROWNS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	285	276
Rushing	101	93
Passing	161	161
Penalty	23	22
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	82/213	82/230
4th Down: Made/Atts.	1/9	10/16
TOTAL NET YARDS	5042	4831
Avg. Per Game	315.1	301.9
Total Plays	1011	1031
Avg. Per Play	5.0	4.7
NET YARDS RUSHING	1609	1670
Avg. Per Game	100.6	104.4
Total Rushes	448	446
NET YARDS PASSING	3433	3161
Avg. Per Game	214.6	197.6
Tackled/Yards Lost	34/192	45/359
Gross Yards	3625	3520
Attempts/Completions	529/309	540/269
Pct. of Completions	58.4	49.8
Had Intercepted	15	27
PUNTS/AVERAGE	97/39.4	94/40.4
NET PUNTING AVG.	33.8	33.4
PENALTIES/YARDS	128/973	122/985
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	23/15	32/11
TOUCHDOWNS	41	30
Rushing	14	8
Passing	20	20
Returns	7	2

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
BROWNS	48	112	104	64	6	334
OPP. TOTAL	34	67	82	62	9	254

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Bahr	0-0	5-5	6-8	4-9	1-2	16-24

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Metcalf	187	633	3.4	t43	6
Manoa	87	289	3.3	22	3
Redden	40	180	4.5	t38	1

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Slaughter	65	1236	19.0	t97	6
Langhorne	60	749	12.5	t62	2
Metcalf	54	397	7.4	t68	4
Newsome	29	324	11.2	31	1
Brennan	28	289	10.3	38	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Wright	9	91	10.1	t27	1
Gash	3	65	21.7	t36	2
Johnson	3	43	14.3	23	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Wagner	97	3817	39.4	6	32	60	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
McNeil	49	15	496	10.1	49	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Metcalf	31	718	23.2	49	0
Oliphant	5	69	13.8	28	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Kosar	513	303	3533	59.1	6.89	18	3.5	14	2.7	t97	34/192	80.3
Pagel	14	5	60	35.7	4.29	1	7.1	1	7.1	18	0/0	43.8

HOUSTON OILERS

PARDEE LOOKS FOR A GUSHER

BY RAY BUCK

If Jerry Glanville was The Man In Black, Jack Pardee is the guy who won't tolerate stupid penalties.

Take note. The Houston Oilers are making an image-change in 1990.

Glanville's so-called Bad Boys of last season drew more penalties (148) than any team in National Football League history, while leading the league in penalty yardage (1,138) for the third time in Glanville's four years as head coach.

Although the Oilers made the playoffs each of the last three years, they were upset in Glanville's House of (Self-Inflicted) Pain by Pittsburgh in the AFC Wild Card game on New Year's Eve. Exactly one week later, Glanville resigned.

Owner K.S. "Bud" Adams, shocked and disappointed by the early exit and Glanville's increasing inability to cope with the local media, brushed away the tears in accepting Glanville's decision to quit and then found a successor 10 minutes down the road.

Pardee, 53, was breeding high-scoring success and designing a wide-open offense to fit a Heisman Trophy winner — Andre Ware — at the University of Houston.

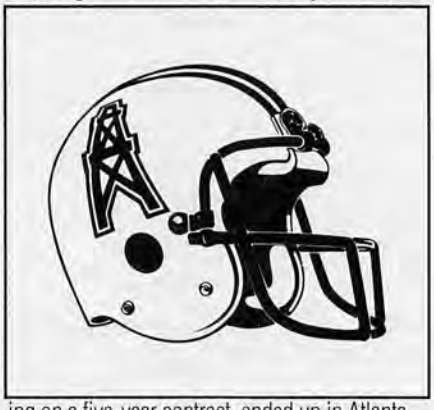
Pardee, self-effacing and highly-respected, was the lone name on Adams' "A" list of candidates for the job. Pardee is expected to provide the leadership needed to raise a talented Oilers team to the next level.

The Run-and-Shoot offense is perfectly suited for Pro Bowl starter Warren Moon, Drew Hill, Ernest Givins and newcomer Gerald "Ice Cube" McNeil, who played for Pardee in the same offense with the USFL Houston Gamblers.

"We've never had all the parts together like this — EVER," said an anxious Adams, whose franchise has never made the playoffs as AFC Central champions since divisional play began in 1970.

"You can't take away the fact that Jerry put us in the playoffs the last three years. But I think he tried to do too much. As we progressed, he was still too involved with the offense. That's a case of not delegating authority. I think that hurt him."

The Oilers, 9-7 (9-8 counting playoffs), lost their last three games in a row to AFC Central rivals Cincinnati, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. And Glanville, with one year remaining on a five-year contract, ended up in Atlanta.



"The easiest way to lose is to beat yourself," said Pardee, who takes his third NFL head coaching job. He was 1976 NFC Coach of the Year with the Chicago Bears (1975-77) and 1979 NFL Coach of the Year with the Washington Redskins (1978-80).

"Sure, you're going to have a few penalties, but I don't know any team strong enough to overcome stupid penalties."

Kevin Gilbride, hired in 1989 as Glanville's quarterback coach, has been retained by Pardee and promoted to offensive coordinator.

The Oilers under Glanville split time between the "Red Gun" offense, using four wide receivers, and the two-back set, using Alonzo Highsmith and either Allen Pinkett, Mike Rozier or Lorenzo White.

Highsmith led all Houston rushers last season with 531 yards — 17th in the AFC and 32nd in the NFL — on 128 carries, followed by Pinkett and White with 449 and 349 yards, respectively. Rozier had a career-low 301 yards on 88 carries.

No one was happy with that arrangement. Each running back had the same complaint: Few carries, no rhythm.

Although the Run-and-Shoot is primarily a passing offense, it does create a surprise element and some big holes for one back. Barry Sanders led the NFC with 1,470 yards in Detroit's "Silver Stretch" last season.

Highsmith, a load to bring down at 238 pounds, seems to be best-suited for Pardee's offense because the lone back in the Run-and-Shoot must be able to block. Highsmith is a devastating blocker.

Pinkett, 5'9", 192 lbs., can catch the ball out of the backfield and may line up at wide receiver on certain plays. One thing is certain, the Oilers under Pardee are committed to four wide-outs, one back, no tight end. "We're not going to keep switching back and forth anymore," Gilbride said. "It takes too much away from your preparation."

Moon, 33, earns a $2 million a year salary — guaranteed through 1993 — and obviously is expected to do more than just hand the ball off.

Moon, who came to the NFL from the Canadian Football League in 1984, has made the Pro Bowl each of the last two years. He is coming off his most productive season yet, setting a club record with 3,631 yards passing and establishing NFL career-highs for completions (280), touchdown passes (23), completion percentage (60.3%) and quarterback rating (88.9).

Moon was joined at the Pro Bowl by his two guards, Mike Munchak and Bruce Matthews — all starters. It was Munchak's fifth Pro Bowl appearance; Matthews' second.

The Oilers did not allow a sack in six games, most by a Houston offensive line

since 1978. Munchak and Matthews, along with offensive tackles Dean Steinkuhler and Bruce Davis, started every game. Center Jay Pennison missed four starts.

Moon had time to throw and spread the ball around. Hill, Givins, Haywood Jeffires and Curtis Duncan caught 66, 55, 47 and 43 passes, respectively. Pinkett was next with 31.

McNeil, smallest player in the NFL at 5-7, 145 pounds, was No. 1 on the Oilers' Plan B wish list. And vice-versa. "Ice Cube" wanted more of a chance to be a reciever than he had at Cleveland. In two USFL seasons under Pardee, McNeil caught 91 passes for 1,518 yards. In four seasons at Cleveland, he caught 24 passes for 317 yards.

But Pardee is expected to bring in more than just a Run-and-Shoot offense.

Davis, who is entering his 12th NFL season as the Oilers left tackle and protector of Moon's blindside, believes the coaching change should help Houston get over the hump.

"We've lacked discipline from time to time the last couple of years," Davis said. "If Jack can supply the direction, we can accomplish anything."

If Glanville coveted living on the edge, Pardee prefers sanity-ball.

The Oilers defense also will have a new look in 1990. It won't be bump-and-run, do-or-die every snap.

Pardee brought with him from UH three longtime assistants — Jim Eddy as defensive coordinator; Pat Thomas to coach the secondary, and Bob Young, offensive line. Pardee's lower-risk defense is expected to restore the bruised egos and fractured psyches of cornerbacks Steve Brown and Patrick Allen, who grew to resent the gambles, the criticism . . . and Glanville.

"It's always easy for a new staff to be critical of the old staff and I don't mean to be," Eddy said. "But I feel incredible pressure was put on their corners."

Brown had a Pro Bowl type of season, although nobody seemed to notice. He had career-highs in interceptions (5), passes defensed (22) and sacks (3). Cornerback Richard Johnson, a first-round pick in 1985, will get a chance now to win the starting free safety job. Jeff Donaldson, an Oilers starter since mid-1986, was left unprotected.

"For this to be a better team, Richard Johnson needs to be a player for us," Pardee said. "He has too much athletic ability."

And a big contract for a non-starter.

Johnson is entering the second year of a three-year, $1.3 million deal. He made only six starts in five seasons under Glanville and was placed last December on the "post-season deactivation" list for getting into a shouting match with an Oilers assistant coach.

Alonzo Highsmith keeps Oilers running game in high cotton. ALLEN DEAN STEELE

Bubba McDowell, rookie starter and second-leading tackler on the team last season, will return to strong safety.

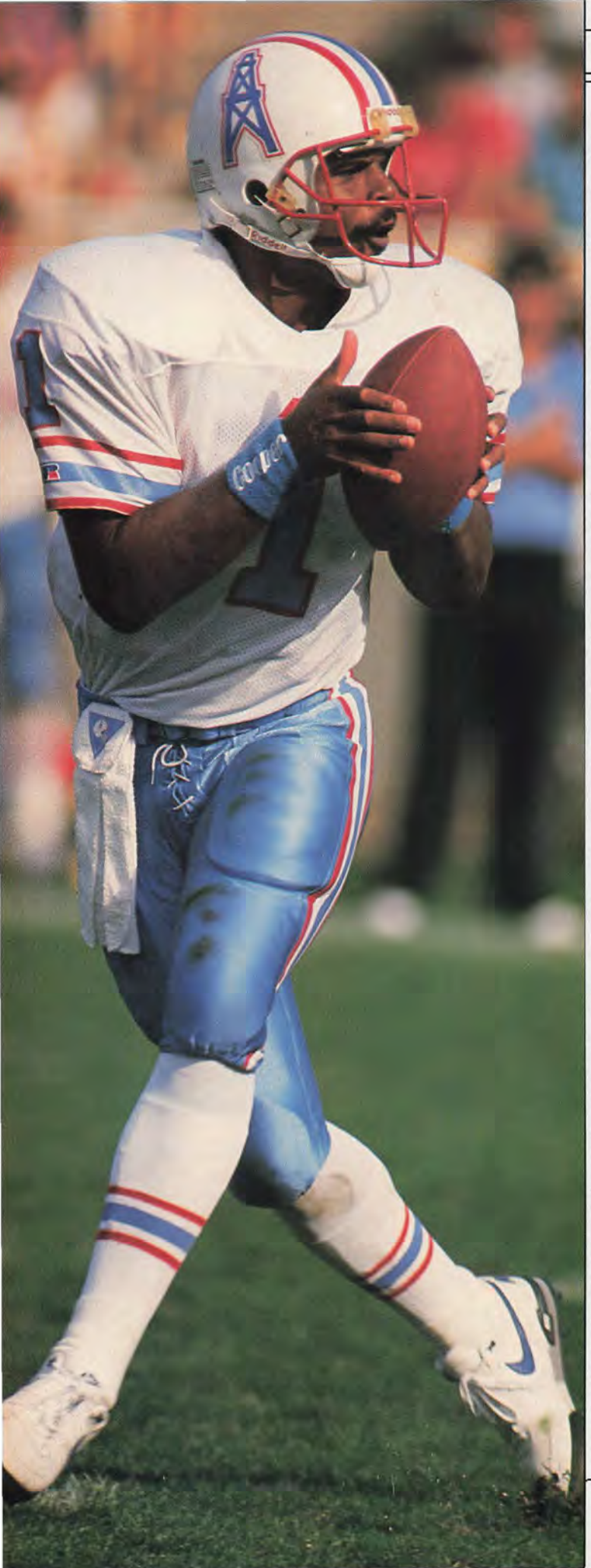
Renegade Cris Dishman, a controversial yet effective special-teamer, keeps improving at cornerback where he is expected to challenge for a starting job. Pardee's influence is expected to help him tremendously.

Pardee has another commitment in mind. The Oilers will switch full time to a four-man front as opposed to Glanville's use of the "34" on first down with frequent substitution.

Defensive end Ray Childress, a Pro Bowler in 1988, missed last year's tailspin because of a broken bone in his lower leg. Houston was 9-5 with him, 0-3 without him.

The Oilers' top pass rushers are William Fuller, Sean Jones and Childress. Childress and Richard Byrd can play either defensive end or defensive tackle.

As a team, Houston dropped off from 42 sacks in `88 to 36 sacks last season. Childress led for the second year in a row with 8 1/2 sacks, followed by Fuller with 6 1/2 and Jones with 6.



Nose tackle Doug Smith, a four-year starter for the Oilers, escaped serious injury when he received a gunshot wound to the left knee Feb. 13. The 300-pound native of Bayboro, N.C., had gone home to visit his parents when he became involved in an altercation outside a bar/poolroom in Mesic, N.C., and was shot as he tried to run from his alleged assailant. The bullet barely grazed the patellar tendon. Smith, 30, has been given June 1 as a target date to begin practice.

It was a bizarre off-season at the Oilers' infirmary. Highsmith underwent routine arthroscopic surgery to "clean up" some loose particles in his left knee and developed an infection with an on-again, off-again temperature. It hospitalized him for 2 1/2 weeks in February.

The Oilers last season ranked ninth on offense and 13th on defense, including 17th against the pass.

Pardee's four-man front puts starting linebacker jobs at a premium. Leading tackler John Grimsley and Al Smith will battle for the middle, while Johnny Meads and Robert Lyles return to the outside spots. Grimsley led the team in tackles (102) for the third time in his four years as a starter. He was a Pro Bowl selection in 1988. Smith, third with 72 tackles, has finished among the top three on the team each of his three NFL seasons. Meads had two of the Oilers' three blocked punts (McDowell had the other) last season. His blocked punt in `88 tied a NFL team record — five.

The Oilers are tough against the run. They've held the opposition under 100 yards rushing in 20 of the last 35 games, including eight times in `89.

Richard Smith, third-year assistant, has brought a "Hit The Beach" attitude to Oilers special teams. Army helmets are passed out as Player-of-the-Game trophies. Smith, 34, was nearly lured away by Glanville. But Smith had one year remaining on his Oilers contract and Pardee — a special-teams fanatic himself — held him to it.

McNeil, former Pro Bowl return specialist, is expected to give Houston its first big-time punt returner since Billy "White Shoes" Johnson and Carl Roaches in the `70s. The Oilers ranked 26th in punt returns with a 6.4-yard average last season. Kenny Johnson had more fair catches (21) than returns (19).

McNeil ranked second in the AFC last season with 10.1 yards per punt return. He averaged 11.8 yards in 1984-85 with the Gamblers under Pardee.

The Oilers don't have to worry about their kicking game.

Tony Zendejas, who has averaged 101.4 points in five Oilers seasons, kicked a career-high 25 field goals and tied George Blanda's 30-year-old club scoring record with 115 points in `89.

Punter Greg Montgomery was the AFC's leading punter with a 43.3-yard average last season. He missed the league lead by only one-tenth of a yard after finishing 21st among NFL punters as a rookie in 1988.

The Oilers punt team is one of the best, allowing an AFC-best 36.1 yards per punt return.

Last year, the Oilers set an club attendance record, averaging 56,378 customers per game to shatter the old mark of 51,457 set in 1978. Adams' 1987 threat to move the team to Jacksonville, Fl, put nearly 10,000 additional seats into the Astrodome at the start of last season. The Oilers will now exceed the 50,000 mark in season tickets for the first time in franchise history.

Adams has a $140 million football/gas and oil/swine and cattle/automobile empire. And what does the man who has everything want?

That's easy, a Super Bowl.

"Jack Pardee comes in with all the credentials and the player personnel is in place," Adams said. "I don't think we've ever had the complete package like we do now."❑

With Warren Moon at the controls, the sky is the limit in Houston.
JONATHAN DANIEL / ALLSPORT

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
29	**Allen**, Patrick	CB	5-10	182	7	Utah State
31	**Arnold**, David	S	6-3	210	2	Michigan
33	**Bell**, Billy	CB	5-10	170	2	Lamar
58	**Brantley**, John	LB	6-2	240	2	Georgia
24	**Brown**, Steve	CB	5-11	187	8	Oregon
71	**Byrd**, Richard	DT	6-4	273	6	Southern Mississippi
67	**Camp**, Reggie	DE	6-4	270	6	California
14	**Carlson**, Cody	QB	6-3	194	4	Baylor
79	**Childress**, Ray	DT-DE	6-6	276	6	Texas A&M
77	**Davis**, Bruce	T	6-6	315	12	UCLA
28	**Dishman**, Cris	CB	6-0	178	3	Purdue
80	**Duncan**, Curtis	WR	5-11	184	4	Northwestern
51	**Fairs**, Eric	LB	6-3	238	5	Memphis State
88	**Ford**, Bernard	WR	5-10	171	2	Central Florida
95	**Fuller**, William	DE	6-3	269	5	North Carolina
97	**Garalczyk**, Mark	DT	6-5	272	3	W. Michigan
81	**Givins**, Ernest	WR	5-9	172	5	Louisville
59	**Grimsley**, John	LB	6-2	238	7	Kentucky
83	**Harris**, Leonard	WR	5-8	162	5	Texas Tech
87	**Harry**, Carl	WR	5-9	168	1	Utah
32	**Highsmith**, Alonzo	RB	6-1	234	4	Miami (FL)
85	**Hill**, Drew	WR	5-9	174	11	Georgia Tech
86	**Jackson**, Kenny	WR	6-0	183	7	Penn State
84	**Jeffries**, Haywood	WR	6-2	201	3	North Carolina State
90	**Johnson**, Ezra	DE	6-4	255	14	Morris Brown
23	**Johnson**, Richard	CB	6-1	195	6	Wisconsin
22	**Jones**, Quintin	S	5-11	194	2	Pittsburgh
96	**Jones**, Sean	DE	6-7	273	7	Northeastern

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
27	**Kinard**, Terry	S	6-1	198	8	Clemson
21	**Knight**, Leander	DB	6-1	196	2	Montclair State
56	**Kozak**, Scott	LB	6-3	226	2	Oregon
93	**Lyles**, Robert	LB	6-1	230	7	TCU
78	**Maggs**, Don	T-G	6-5	285	4	Tulane
74	**Matthews**, Bruce	G	6-5	286	8	USC
25	**McDowell**, Bubba	S	6-1	195	2	Miami (FL)
89	**McNeil**, Gerald	WR-KR	5-8	144	5	Baylor
91	**Meads**, Johnny	LB	6-2	232	7	Nicholls State
94	**Montgomery**, Glenn	DT	6-0	274	2	Houston
9	**Montgomery**, Greg	P	6-4	217	3	Michigan State
1	**Moon**, Warren	QB	6-3	210	7	Washington
63	**Munchak**, Mike	G	6-3	284	9	Penn State
52	**Pennison**, Jay	C	6-1	282	5	Nicholls State
20	**Pinkett**, Allen	RB	5-9	192	5	Notre Dame
98	**Reese**, Jerry	DT-DE	6-2	275	2	Kentucky
66	**Robison**, Tommy	G-T	6-4	295	3	Texas A&M
30	**Rozier**, Mike	RB	5-10	213	6	Nebraska
53	**Seale**, Eugene	LB	5-10	250	4	Lamar
54	**Smith**, Al	LB	6-1	240	4	Utah State
99	**Smith**, Doug	DT	6-6	286	6	Auburn
70	**Steinkuhler**, Dean	T	6-3	287	7	Nebraska
68	**Stewart**, Alex	DE	6-4	260	1	Cal State-Fullerton
44	**White**, Lorenzo	RB	5-11	218	3	Michigan State
73	**Williams**, David	T	6-5	292	2	Florida
69	**Williams**, Doug	G-T	6-6	295	3	Texas A&M
7	**Zendejas**, Tony	PK	5-8	165	6	Nevada-Reno

OILERS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Lamar **LATHON** *ILB*	6-3, 240	**Houston**	One of the premier defensive players in the country . . . A dominating force in the middle of the field . . . Has incredible speed for a player his size . . . All-Southwest Conference . . . Moved to inside linebacker in spring drills and displaced his sternum in a car accident in late July 1989.
2	Jeff **ALM** *DT*	6-5, 260	**Notre Dame**	Particularly strong in run pursuit . . . Makes life challenging for quarterbacks who must throw over his 6-5 frame . . . Recently timed at 4.93 in the 40 . . . All-American selection by The Poor Man's Guide to the NFL Draft and second team honors from the AP.
3	Willis **PEGUESE** *DE-LB*	6-4, 262	**Miami**	Cat-quick lineman who is constantly in the opponent's backfield . . . Played both linebacker and defensive end . . . All-American honorable mention and All-South Independent . . . Recorded 46 tackles (24 solos) with 12 quarterback pressures.
4	Eric **STILL** *OG*	6-3, 277	**Tennessee**	One of the nation's premier blockers . . . Demonstrates his versatility with his ability to play both tackle and guard . . . Consistently drives through his opponent on running plays . . . Recently timed at 5.09 in the 40 . . . Consensus All-Southeastern Conference first team pick.
5	Richard **NEWBILL** *OLB*	6-1, 240	**Miami**	Has a great combination of size and quickness . . . Bench presses over 380 pounds . . . Timed at 4.7 in the 40 . . . Started at strong side linebacker, finishing second on the team with 94 tackles (48 solos), 2 sacks and 10 stops for 41 yards in losses.
6	Tony **JONES** *WR*	5-7, 140	**Texas**	All-SWC second team pick . . . A rarity in modern major college athletics as a three sport letterman (football, track, basketball) . . . Caught 108 career passes for 1,842 yards and 12 TDs.
7	Andy **MURRAY** *FB*	6-1, 241	**Kentucky**	Regarded by many to be one of the premier blockers at his position in college football . . . Outstanding knockdown blocker . . . Started every game in 1989, gaining 170 yards with 4 TDs on 48 carries . . . Caught 14 passes for 89 yards . . . Led the team with 107 knockdown blocks.
8	Brett **TUCKER** *CB*	6-0, 200	**Northern Illinois**	Invited to play in first Martin Luther King All-American Classic . . . Finished second on team in tackles (74) despite missing two games with knee sprain . . . Career statistics include 205 tackles, 9 interceptions and 18 pass deflections.
9	Pat **COLEMAN** *FL*	5-7, 170	**Mississippi**	Ranked fourth in the SEC and 26th in the nation in punt returns (23 for 242 yards) . . . Ranked seventh in the SEC and 46th in the nation in kickoff returns (16 for 352 yards) . . . Ranked ninth in the SEC in receiving with 32 catches for 595 yards and 5 TDs . . . His 19.9 yards per reception average was third best in the SEC.
10	Dee **THOMAS** *DB*	5-10, 176	**Nicholls State**	An excellent one-on-one cornerback . . . Can play more than one position . . . Also knows the free safety position . . . In 1988 had 5 interceptions and returned 2 for TDs . . . Had a career high 67 tackles in 1989.
11	Joey **BANES** *OT*	6-7, 275	**Houston**	All-Southwest Conference in 1988 and 1989 . . . Played in East-West Shrine Game and Hula Bowl.
12	Reggie **SLACK** *QB*	6-1, 217	**Auburn**	Ranks second on the school's all-time passing lists for completions (346), attempts (585), percentage (59.1%) and yardage (4,697) . . . Completed 148 of 252 passes (58.7%) for 1,996 yards and 11 TDs in 1989.

OILERS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	OILERS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	327	314
Rushing	112	119
Passing	185	165
Penalty	30	30
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	83/203	87/191
4th Down: Made/Atts.	10/14	10/13
TOTAL NET YARDS	5427	5211
Avg. Per Game	339.2	325.7
Total Plays	1028	940
Avg. Per Play	5.3	5.5
NET YARDS RUSHING	1928	1669
Avg. Per Game	120.5	104.3
Total Rushes	495	437
NET YARDS PASSING	3499	3542
Avg. Per Game	218.7	221.4
Tackled/Yards Lost	37/287	36/277
Gross Yards	3786	3819
Attempts/Completions	496/295	467/269
Pct. of Completions	59.5	57.6
Had Intercepted	16	21
PUNTS/AVERAGE	58/41.8	56/37.6
NET PUNTING AVG.	36.1	34.0
PENALTIES/YARDS	148/1138	109/903
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	39/17	25/16
TOUCHDOWNS	41	52
Rushing	16	20
Passing	23	28
Returns	2	4

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
OILERS	50	128	85	102	0	365
OPP. TOTAL	95	106	97	108	6	412

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Zendejas	1-1	8-9	9-14	5-11	2-2	25-37

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Highsmith	128	531	4.1	25	4
Pinkett	94	449	4.8	60	1
White	104	349	3.4	33	5

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Hill	66	938	14.2	50	8
Givins	55	794	14.4	48	3
Jeffires	47	619	13.2	t45	2
Duncan	43	613	14.3	55	5
Pinkett	31	239	7.7	23	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Brown	5	54	10.8	41	0
Lyles	4	66	16.5	48	0
McDowell	4	65	16.3	21	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Gr. Montgomery	56	2422	43.3	7	15	63	2

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
K. Johnson	19	21	122	6.4	19	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
K. Johnson	21	372	17.7	39	0
White	17	303	17.8	29	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Moon	464	280	3631	60.3	7.83	23	5.0	14	3.0	55	35/267	88.9
Carlson	31	15	155	48.4	5.00	0	0.0	1	3.2	23	2/20	49.8

CHRISTIAN CORNER

REGGIE WHITE

"MINISTER OF DEFENSE"

By Reggie White as told to David Sitton

Reggie White stands 6'5", weighs 285 lbs., runs the 40 in 4.6, and bench-presses 460 lbs.

In 1984, Reggie inked a reported five-year, $4 million contract with the Memphis Showboats of the now defunct USFL, making him at the time the highest paid lineman signee in the history of pro football. He began playing for the Philadelphia Eagles early in the 1985 season and was voted the NFC's Defensive Rookie-of-the-Year. Reggie's been All-Pro the past four seasons and led the NFL in quarterback sacks two of the last three years. In 1987, he was selected the NFL's Defensive Player-of-the-Year, recording an NFC record 21 sacks in just 12 games.

Sportswriters dubbed him, "the Minister of Defense" for his unabashed witness. At age 17, before a congregation at Chattanooga's St. John's Baptist Church, Reggie received a minister's license after preaching a trial sermon. Since then, he's preached in over 1,200 churches as well as shared his faith with numerous other groups.

Meet Reggie White.

Dr. Edmond Cole said, "If your talent doesn't match up to your character, then your character will go in the gutter." The most important thing in a person is his or her character. Coaches have tremendous influence on their athletes. They can build up or destroy. Many think they have to be tough and aloof. Some curse their players because they think it helps, but it only degrades them. Coaches need to point out the positive instead of the negative.

My main reason for playing is because I have a great opportunity to let the world know that Jesus is Lord. Yet, when I start talking about Jesus, some reporters walk away. It's like they want to write only the negative. I think it's time for the media to print more positive stuff and give athletes who are positive role models more respect.

Paul talks in I Corinthians 9 about how he wanted to get in shape spiritually, wanted to punish his body so that, when he got into competition, it'd be strong enough to endure. I pray for strength, but God answers those prayers by getting me in the weight room and on the track, preparing me to be great on the field. If I don't work hard, I cheat God, my family, myself and society.

Probably the toughest part of being a pro is people patting you on the back and telling you how great you are. I have to be careful. The Bible warns about getting puffed up with pride and says to beware when people speak well of you because they spoke well of false prophets, too. I know that if people aren't persecuting me, ridiculing me, I'm not living right.

The only way I'm going to attain my goal of being the best defensive lineman ever is through work and sweat. When I'm through, I want people to say that Reggie was the best. This game means role models to me. Role models to young people especially. That's why I play. That's why I want to be the best.

Reggie and wife Sara have two children, Jeremy and Jecolia, and reside in Sewell, N.J., a Philadelphia suburb.

I think God's calling Sara and me to minister to youth around the world by preaching the gospel. We're getting excited about it. We want to share the gospel wherever we are, to see miracles done in peoples' lives. When Jeremy grows up, I don't want people to say, "Hey, your dad was a great football player, wasn't he?" I want people to say, "Hey, Jeremy, your dad was a man of God, man. Your dad was a man of God."

When I first accepted Christ I thought it was all right to sin, off and on. But God has since shown me it's not all right. We can't deliberately dip into sin and keep coming back to Him. If we're going to be committed, we've got to be totally committed.

It's true we're going to sin, but we have to move toward God's level of perfection. Salvation is progressive, not something you just receive once and that's it. We must go on to maturity. I don't think a person can walk with God and be worldly at the same time.

I want to teach my kids the principles of Scripture, and how to be righteous, by how I live. I want them to be able to take these principles into the world. Sara and I want to build their characters so that people will respect and even persecute them for their beliefs. Most of all, we want our children to know who Jesus is and have a vital relationship with Him.

My motivation for doing a lot of high school assemblies is the kids. Young people have zeal, and Satan seems to be knocking them off. I think young people are the most important people in America right now.

The past two years, I could've been honored as Miller Lite's Lineman-of-the-Year with $25,000 going to my favorite charity. I told them to take my name off the list. Advertising makes beer look like it's fun, but they never show the next morning hangovers. I don't want any part of something that's destroying our youth. Alcohol is the No. 1 drug of young people. It not only kills them — it kills innocent people.

People have a bad perspective of Christians. In order to preach the gospel, I believe you've got to be aggressive. In order to lead someone to Christ, you've got to be aggressive, but it's got to be an aggressive type of love.

My vision, as well as Darrell Green's, Mike Singletary's and others', is to win our league for Jesus because athletes have such a great impact. By winning our teammates to Christ, we can make a difference.❑

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NFC LEADERS

TOP SCORERS - NON-KICKERS

Name	Team	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
HILLIARD	Saints	18	13	5	0	108
RICE	49ers	17	0	17	0	102
ANDERSON	Bears	15	11	4	0	90
BELL	Rams	15	15	0	0	90
ANDERSON	Giants	14	14	0	0	84
B. SANDERS	Lions	14	14	0	0	84
SHARPE	Packers	13	0	12	1	78

TOP PUNT RETURNERS

Name	Team	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
STANLEY	Lions	36	496	13.8	74	0
MEGGETT	Giants	46	582	12.7	t76	1
SIKAHEMA	Cardinals	37	433	11.7	53	0

TOP RUSHERS

Name	Team	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
B. SANDERS	Lions	280	1470	5.3	34	14
ANDERSON	Bears	274	1275	4.7	73	11
HILLIARD	Saints	344	1262	3.7	40	13
BELL	Rams	272	1137	4.2	47	15
CRAIG	49ers	271	1054	3.9	27	6

TOP RECEIVERS BY YARDAGE

Name	Team	Yards	No	Avg	Long	TD
RICE	49ers	1483	82	18.1	t68	17
SHARPE	Packers	1423	90	15.8	t79	12
CARRIER	Buccaneers	1422	86	16.5	t78	9
ELLARD	Rams	1382	70	19.7	53	8

TOP INTERCEPTORS

Name	Team	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
ALLEN	Eagles	8	38	4.8	18	0
MCDONALD	Cardinals	7	170	24.3	t53	1
HOLMES	Lions	6	77	12.8	36	1
HAMILTON	Buccaneers	6	70	11.7	30	0
WAYMER	Saints	6	66	11.0	42	0
GRAY	Rams	6	48	8.0	t27	1
ROBINSON	Buccaneers	6	44	7.3	16	0

TOP SCORERS - KICKERS

Name	Team	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	Lg	Pts
COFER	49ers	49	51	29	36	47	136
LOHMILLER	Redskins	41	41	29	40	48	128
KARLIS	Vikings	27	28	31	39	51	120
LANSFORD	Rams	51	51	23	30	48	120
JACKE	Packers	42	42	22	28	52	108

TOP KICKOFF RETURNERS

Name	Team	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
GRAY	Lions	24	640	26.7	57	0
DIXON	Cowboys	47	1181	25.1	t97	1
HOWARD	Redskins	21	522	24.9	t99	1
GENTRY	Bears	28	667	23.8	63	0
MEGGETT	Giants	27	577	21.4	43	0

TOP PASS RECEIVERS

Name	Team	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
SHARPE	Packers	90	1423	15.8	t79	12
CARRIER	Buccaneers	86	1422	16.5	t78	9
MONK	Redskins	86	1186	13.8	t60	8
RICE	49ers	82	1483	18.1	t68	17
SANDERS	Redskins	80	1138	14.2	68	4
CLARK	Redskins	79	1229	15.6	t80	9
RATHMAN	49ers	73	616	8.4	36	1
ELLARD	Rams	70	1382	19.7	53	8
R. JOHNSON	Lions	70	1091	15.6	t75	8
E. MARTIN	Saints	68	1090	16.0	t53	8

TOP LEADERS IN SACKS

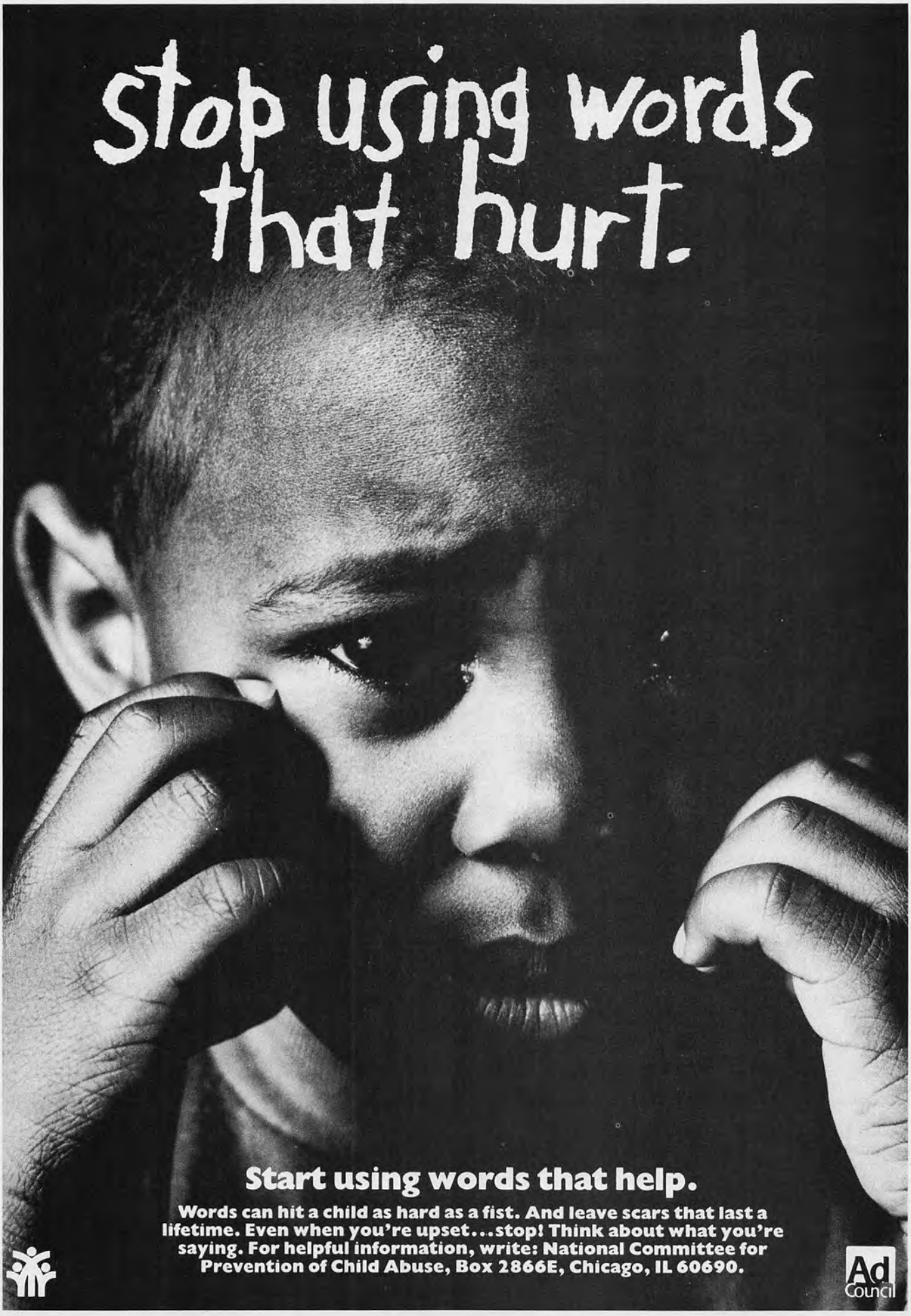
Name	Team	No
DOLEMAN	Vikings	20.5
HARRIS	Packers	19.5
MILLARD	Vikings	18.0
GREENE	Rams	16.5

TOP PUNTERS

Name	Team	No	Yards	Long	Avg	TB	Blk	Ret	RetYds	In 20	Net Avg
CAMARILLO	Cardinals	76	3298	58	43.4	6	0	42	330	21	37.5
ARNOLD	Lions	82	3538	64	43.1	9	1	46	373	14	36.0
LANDETA	Giants	70	3019	71	43.1	7	0	29	236	19	37.8
MOJSIEJENKO	Redskins	62	2663	74	43.0	9	1	34	383	21	33.3
FULHAGE	Falcons	84	3472	65	41.3	9	1	43	460	24	33.3

TOP PASSERS

Name	Team	Att	Comp	% Comp	Avg Yds	% Gain	TD	% TD	Long	Int	% Int	Rating Points
MONTANA	49ers	386	271	70.2	3521	9.12	26	6.7	t95	8	2.1	112.4
EVERETT	Rams	518	304	58.7	4310	8.32	29	5.6	t78	17	3.3	90.6
RYPIEN	Redskins	476	280	58.8	3768	7.92	22	4.6	t80	13	2.7	88.1
HEBERT	Saints	353	222	62.9	2686	7.61	15	4.2	t54	15	4.2	82.7
MAJKOWSKI	Packers	599	353	58.9	4318	7.21	27	4.5	t79	20	3.3	82.3


stop using words that hurt.
Start using words that help.
Words can hit a child as hard as a fist. And leave scars that last a lifetime. Even when you're upset...stop! Think about what you're saying. For helpful information, write: National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, Box 2866E, Chicago, IL 60690.
Ad Council

AFC LEADERS

TOP SCORERS - NON-KICKERS

Name	Team	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
OKOYE	Kansas City	12	12	0	0	72
THOMAS	Bills	12	6	6	0	72
A. MILLER	Chargers	11	0	10	1	66
METCALF	Browns	10	6	4	0	60
BROOKS	Bengals	9	7	2	0	54
BUTTS	Chargers	9	9	0	0	54
CLAYTON	Dolphins	9	0	9	0	54

TOP PUNT RETURNERS

Name	Team	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
VERDIN	Colts	23	296	12.9	t49	1
MCNEIL	Browns	49	496	10.1	49	0
TOWNSELL	Jets	33	299	9.1	30	0

TOP RUSHERS

Name	Team	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
OKOYE	Chiefs	370	1480	4.0	59	12
DICKERSON	Colts	314	1311	4.2	t21	7
THOMAS	Bills	298	1244	4.2	38	6
BROOKS	Bengals	221	1239	5.6	t65	7
HUMPHREY	Broncos	294	1151	3.9	40	7

TOP RECEIVERS BY YARDAGE

Name	Team	Yards	No	Avg	Long	TD
REED	Bills	1312	88	14.9	t78	9
A. MILLER	Chargers	1252	75	16.7	t69	10
SLAUGHTER	Browns	1236	65	19.0	t97	6
MCGEE	Bengals	1211	65	18.6	t74	8

TOP INTERCEPTORS

Name	Team	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
WRIGHT	Browns	9	91	10.1	t27	1
FULCHER	Bengals	8	87	10.9	22	0
TAYLOR	Colts	7	225	32.1	t80	1
BYRD	Chargers	7	38	5.4	22	0
MCMILLAN	Jets	6	180	30.0	t92	1
BRAXTON	Broncos	6	103	17.2	t34	1
KELSO	Bills	6	101	16.8	43	0

TOP SCORERS - KICKERS

Name	Team	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	Lg	Pts
TREADWELL	Broncos	39	40	27	33	46	120
NORWOOD	Bills	46	47	23	30	48	115
ZENDEJAS	Oilers	40	40	25	37	52	115
LOWERY	Chiefs	34	35	24	33	50	106
JAEGER	Raiders	34	34	23	34	50	103

TOP KICKOFF RETURNERS

Name	Team	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
WOODSON	Steelers	36	982	27.3	t84	1
LOGAN	Dolphins	24	613	25.5	t97	1
A.MILLER	Chargers	21	533	25.4	t91	1
MARTIN	Patriots	24	584	24.3	38	0
JEFFERSON	Seahawks	22	511	23.2	t97	1

TOP PASS RECEIVERS

Name	Team	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
REED	Bills	88	1312	14.9	t78	9
BLADES	Seahawks	77	1063	13.8	t60	5
JOHNSON	Broncos	76	1095	14.4	69	7
WILLIAMS	Seahawks	76	657	8.6	t51	6
A. MILLER	Chargers	75	1252	16.7	t69	10
HILL	Oilers	66	938	14.2	50	8
SLAUGHTER	Browns	65	1236	19.0	t97	6
MCGEE	Bengals	65	1211	18.6	t74	8
CLAYTON	Dolphins	64	1011	15.8	t78	9
BROOKS	Colts	63	919	14.6	t55	4

TOP LEADERS IN SACKS

Name	Team	No
WILLIAMS	Chargers	14.0
B. SMITH	Bills	13.0
O'NEAL	Chargers	12.5
FLETCHER	Broncos	12.0

TOP PUNTERS

Name	Team	No	Yards	Long	Avg	TB	Blk	Ret	RetYds	In 20	Net Avg
Gr. MONTGOMERY	Oilers	56	2422	63	43.3	7	2	24	191	15	36.1
STARK	Colts	79	3392	64	42.9	10	1	51	558	14	32.9
ROBY	Dolphins	58	2458	58	42.4	6	1	26	256	18	35.3
NEWSOME	Steelers	82	3368	57	41.1	9	1	45	361	15	34.1
GOSSETT	Raiders	67	2711	60	40.5	7	0	41	301	12	33.9

TOP PASSERS

Name	Team	Att	Comp	% Comp	Avg Yds	% Gain	TD	% TD	Long	Int	% Int	Rating Points
ESIASON	Bengals	455	258	56.7	3525	7.75	28	6.2	t74	11	2.4	92.1
MOON	Oilers	464	280	60.3	3631	7.83	23	5.0	55	14	3.0	88.9
KELLY	Bills	391	228	58.3	3130	8.01	25	6.4	t78	18	4.6	86.2
KOSAR	Browns	513	303	59.1	3533	6.89	18	3.5	t97	14	2.7	80.3

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Western Division

DENVER BRONCOS

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

26

DENVER BRONCOS

NEVER SUPER ENOUGH

BY JOSEPH SANCHEZ

One of the more popular bumper stickers in the Mile High City these days reads: "Go Broncos, Keep Doing it Until You Get it Right."

As every National Football League fan knows, the Denver Broncos do Super Bowls. They just don't do them very well.

But it will not be with faint hearts that the Broncos set out on the road to Tampa this year, hoping to arrive there no more than a day or two before Jan. 27, 1991 for their fourth Super Bowl in five years. If the Broncos have learned anything in those previous experiences, it is that losing 55-10 to San Francisco is no more humilating than losing 42-10 to Washington or even 39-20 to the New York Giants. The scores may get worse, but the level of embarrassment in any blowout is virtually absolute. Besides, this could be the bowl the Broncos have been waiting for to test coach Dan Reeves' theory on why his team not only can't win the big one, they can't even keep it close.

It is the theory of "reverse altitude," an unexplored contention that creatures of high altitude go through a difficult period of adjustment when they are placed at sea level for more than a day or two, becoming somewhat disoriented and sluggish over the next five or six days, making them unable to perform at their normal standards.

With a new 17-week schedule in place, the two competing teams will not be required to spend the week before the game at the site of the Super Bowl this year, and that, according to Reeves, might just correct Denver's problem.

"I don't have any other theories," said Reeves. "I really don't. When you look at it, last year was a great example. We played 18 games before the Super Bowl, and we were competitive in all 18 of them, even the ones we lost. So why, all of a sudden, were we not competitive in that 19th game? The only thing different about the Super Bowl," he observed, "was that extra week we spent in New Orleans.

"I don't think we've handled the travel part of it or the other preparations any differently than other teams have," said Reeves. "And I don't think the pressure of the game is

something we don't handle well. I think there's a lot more pressure just to get there through the playoffs."

In a review of recent seasons, noted Reeves, the Giants needed some late-game heroics in their own ballpark to beat the Broncos in the regular season in 1986, while Denver beat the Redskins in close games in Denver and in Washington in the two seasons bracketing their overwhelming loss to them in Super Bowl XXII.

Until Super Bowl XXIV, Denver had literally dominated the 49ers in recent history.

"So you look at those games, and you look at what happened to Colorado in the Orange Bowl last year and to Wyoming in the Holiday Bowl the year before," said Reeves, "and I think there might be something to it."

Reeves isn't alone in thinking that. It is an area of research that Rocky Mountain research physiologists have only begun to explore. The rest of the American Football Conference should probably root for Reeves to be right. They may be the sorriest team in Super Bowl history, but the Broncos were clearly the best team in the AFC last year.

If their quarterback, John Elway, hasn't suffered some kind of permanent psychological blockage after another lousy personal performance in the Super Bowl, they likely will remain the strongest team in the weaker conference again this season. Elway spent much of the offseason hoping to heal his psyche at his new golf retreat in Palm Springs. But there was evidence to suggest his attitude remained positive.

"You bet I want to go to bat again," said Elway within minutes after his third strikeout in three trips to the NFL's championship plate.

"I'll keep going to bat every year, even if we keep losing."

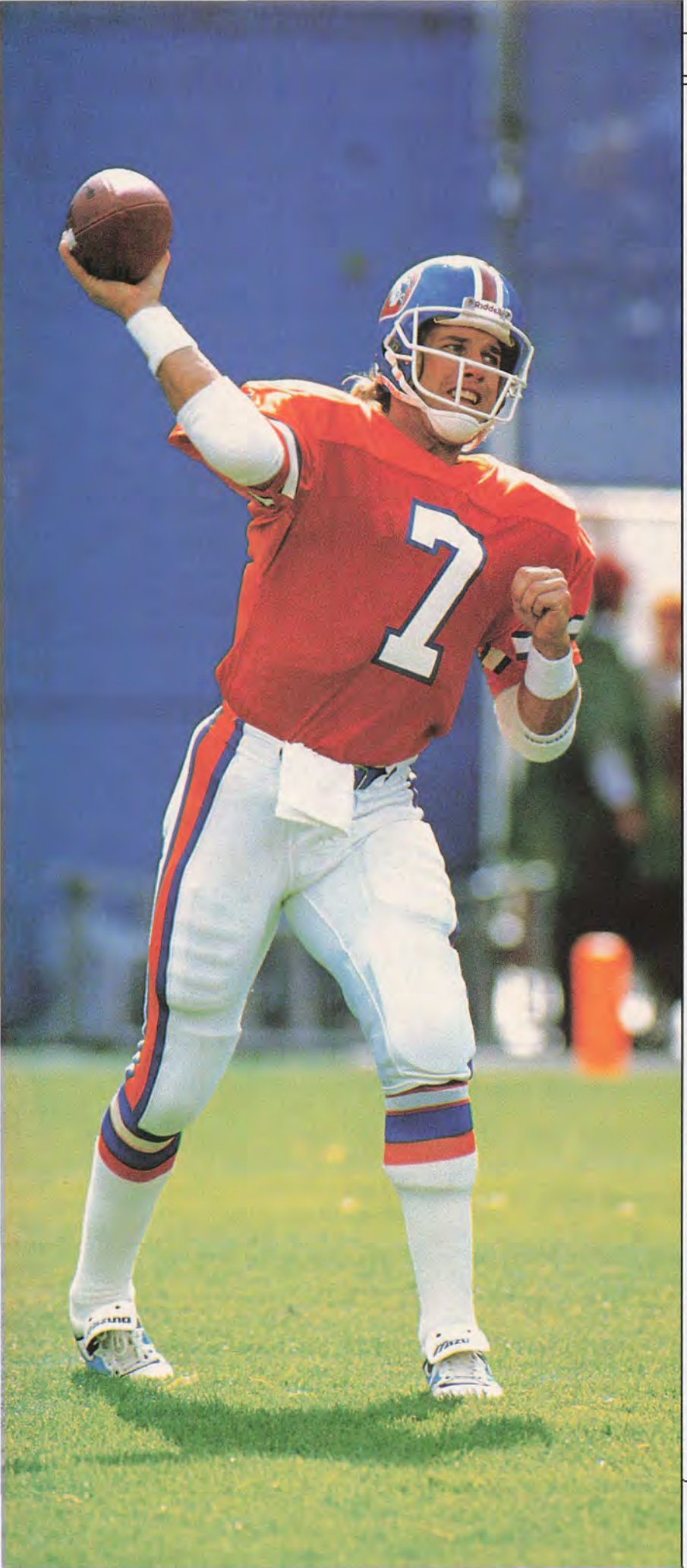
There were suggestions, before and after the Super Bowl, that Elway's problem was lack of development. Before the game, Terry Bradshaw said Elway had been coddled in Denver and had never been allowed to develop his mental toughness. After the game, 49ers defensive back Tim McKyer said, "I'll tell you what's wrong with John Elway. He can't read defenses to save his life. He never had any idea if we were playing zone, man, or what."

There were those, too, who suggested after the game that Elway should be traded. Reeves, however, defended Elway, saying there is no way a quarterback who can't read defenses can play in the NFL.

"John had a good year," he said. "Maybe not as good as some in the past. But he got us to the Super Bowl again, and that has to be a heck of an accomplishment, particularly with all the new faces we had. I think John is tough enough to know that that's the way this game is," said Reeves. "You have to learn from these situations. I think he's tough. He's been tough ever since he came into the

Bobby Humphrey has only begun to establish himself among the league's top running backs.

ALLEN DEAN STEELE



Can John Elway ever bring home the big one?

TIM DEFRISCO / ALLSPORT

league. But I can't really evaluate it," he said. "I think John, my personal feeling is, that he'll be better for it. He'll be more determined than ever to try to get back to eventually win it. I don't think we have to treat John any differently than we have in the past. He handles himself extremely well."

All those new faces Reeves spoke of are another reason to expect the Broncos to remain at the top of their conference. Bobby Humphrey, the rookie runner who rushed for more than 1,000 yards, has only begun to establish himself among the league's top running backs. And the Broncos, according to Reeves, have only begun to explore all the different ways to exploit him.

"Our philosophy won't change," said Reeves, "but you try to take advantage of the people you have. We're still going to be a multiple offense, move people around a lot, and try to mix it up. But how we do that might change," he said, "because we definitely want to start taking advantage of the young guys we brought in last year — Bobby and Melvin Bratton and Jeff Alexander."

Denver, then, can probably be expected to place more emphasis on its ground attack this season, particularly from the fullback position. Reeves had a tough time deciding between the hard-hitting, pile driving Alexander last year and the quicker, more athletic Bratton. But the Broncos can probably also be expected to try to develop more of a quick-hitting passing game in honor of the masterful Joe Montana.

Over the years, Denver has established a tendency toward slow-developing pass plays to give Elway plenty of opportunities to hit the big ones. In doing that, they've never given their quarterback or The Three Amigos much of a quick-strike, *pan-y-mantequilla*, attack to use against overly aggressive defenses or any time he needed a boost in confidence.

Denver, remember, was one of the youngest teams in the league last season, so there should be continued development in other areas, too. It is in the offensive line, for example, that most analysts expect the Broncos to show their greatest improvement this season. Right guard Doug Widell, center Keith Kartz and left tackle Gerald Perry were just babies last year, but they were Baby Hueys.

With just nine draft choices, no first rounder, the only personnel change to look for on offense is at tight end where Denver was expected to lose veteran standout Clarence Kay in the Plan B free agency. To replace him, they'll either go with veteran backup Orson Mobley or former Houston tight end Chris Verhulst, the one prize they think they came up with among Plan B signings.

In Denver, the great mystery of Super Bowl XXIV was the collapse of the Broncos' defense. It was Wade Phillips' straight up, no-nonsense defense that had kept Denver in every one of those first 18 games, keeping it simple by keeping everything in front of it.

So how did Jerry Rice and Co., manage to get behind it so easily, particularly since twin safeties Dennis Smith and Steve Atwater had played so well before that? There were no easy explanations, said Phillips, which might give further credence to Reeves' theory on reverse altitude. But Phillips, considered a hot prospect as a head-coach before the col-

lapse, spent much of the off-season expanding his playbook.

"We're going to expand some on defense," said Reeves. We're not as young as we were last year, so it doesn't have to be as simple. We'll probably try to get a little more sophisticated."

That, however, does not mean it will ever get as complicated as it was under Joe Collier. All it probably means is a little more situation substitution, a few more four-man fronts and a few more disguises. One way or another, the Broncos are sure to want to get sophomore pass-rushers Warren Powers and Jake McCullough more playing time. But the Broncos most likely will continue to line up in the three-man front that has been its base defense for more than a decade with Pro Bowler Greg Kragen back in the middle and newcomers Alphonso Carreker and Ron Holmes settling in as the bookends. It is Phillips' hope that Holmes, who had nine sacks in the last nine games of the season as a starter, can be freed up as a designated sackman by adding more inside rushers to the lineup.

At linebacker, the big question going into training camp for Denver was who to line up at left outside linebacker opposite Simon Fletcher. Michael Brooks, who played there last year, is moving inside to replace Rick Dennison opposite Karl Mecklenburg, the perennial Pro Bowler.

There was a time when super athlete Randy Thornton was projected as the eventual starter opposite Fletcher, but a major knee injury last year has cast a dark cloud on his future. Denver's secondary underwent a major overhaul last year, but there is apt to be at least one more change this year if the Broncos can find somebody to replace Wymon Henderson at right cornerback. That somebody could be Darren Carrington, a training camp star as a rookie free agent last year, or somebody out of the draft.

They may be the punch line to everybody's favorite Super Bowl joke, but the Broncos regard themselves as champions. They won their conference title in three of the last four years, noted Reeves, "so it's not like we think we need to start all over. I don't know that there's one thing that we can say is a weakness," said Reeves, "but we'll evaluate it in training camp and that is the area we'll try to get better. We've got a lot of guys that have got a lot of ability, and they've also got a tremendous amount of heart. You know, we are the defending AFC champions and somebody's gotta take that away from us. So we're not going to give it up easily. We've won it three of the last four years, so we like what we've accomplished. We've just got to try to get better to win the whole thing. The best time to do that is probably next January.

"The way it's set up," he said, "I can't see the Super Bowl teams having to go into Tampa a week early. I'd definitely like to see what we would do going in a day or two before the game."

Karl Mecklenburg is a regular in Super Bowls and Pro Bowls. MIKE POWELL / ALLSPORT

If there is a true NFC dominance over the AFC, said Reeves, he doesn't see it that way. The only disparity I've seen is in the Super Bowl," said Reeves. "We're probably the biggest part of it. I guess when you look at it the way the NFC has dominated three of the last four years, they've dominated against us. But I really don't feel that there is that much difference between the NFC and the AFC, except in those Super Bowls.

"On a scale of one-to-ten, with ten being the worst, we've had three tens," said Reeves. "So we've obviously got a long way to go before we can play on the level we need, to win one."❑

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
57	**Allert**, Ty	LB	6-2	238	5	Texas
40	**Alexander**, Jeff	RB	6-0	232	2	Southern University
27	**Atwater**, Steve	S	6-3	213	2	Arkansas
35	**Bell**, Ken	RB	5-10	190	5	Boston College
54	**Bishop**, Keith	C-G	6-3	290	10	Baylor
32	**Bratton**, Melvin	RB	6-1	225	2	Miami (FL)
34	**Braxton**, Tyrone	CB	5-11	185	4	North Dakota State
56	**Brooks**, Michael	LB	6-1	235	4	Louisiana State
FA	**Calhoun**, Paul	P	6-3	210	3	Kentucky
92	**Carreker**, Alphonso	DE	6-6	272	7	Florida State
29	**Carrington**, Darren	CB	6-1	189	2	Northern Arizona
25	**Corrington**, Kip	S	6-0	175	2	Texas A&M
58	**Curtis**, Scott	LB	6-1	230	3	New Hampshire
55	**Dennison**, Rick	LB	6-3	220	8	Colorado State
7	**Elway**, John	QB	6-3	215	8	Stanford
85	**Embree**, Jon	TE	6-3	235	3	Colorado
73	**Fletcher**, Simon	LB	6-5	240	6	Houston
87	**Green**, Paul	TE	6-3	230	2	Southern California
69	**Hamilton**, Darrell	T	6-5	298	2	North Carolina
20	**Hampton**, Lorenzo	RB	5-11	208	6	Florida
36	**Haynes**, Mark	CB	5-11	195	11	Colorado
24	**Henderson**, Wymon	CB	5-9	186	4	Nevada-Las Vegas
68	**Henke**, Brad	DE	6-3	275	2	Arizona
90	**Holmes**, Ron	DE	6-4	265	6	Washington
2	**Horan**, Mike	P	5-11	190	7	Long Beach State
26	**Humphrey**, Bobby	RB	6-1	201	2	Alabama
80	**Jackson**, Mark	WR	5-9	180	5	Purdue
81	**Johnson**, Jason	WR	5-10	178	3	Illinois State
82	**Johnson**, Vance	WR	5-11	185	6	Arizona
66	**Juriga**, Jim	G-T	6-6	275	3	Illinois
72	**Kartz**, Keith	C	6-4	270	4	California
88	**Kay**, Clarence	TE	6-2	237	7	Georgia
71	**Kragen**, Greg	NT	6-3	265	6	Utah State
8	**Kubiak**, Gary	QB	6-0	192	8	Texas A&M
76	**Lanier**, Ken	T	6-3	290	10	Florida State
98	**Little**, David	TE	6-2	226	7	Middle Tennessee State
59	**Lucas**, Tim	LB	6-3	230	4	California
97	**Mraz**, Mark	DE	6-4	260	3	Utah State
96	**McCullough**, Jake	DE	6-5	270	2	Clemson
77	**Mecklenburg**, Karl	LB	6-3	240	8	Minnesota
89	**Mobley**, Orson	TE	6-5	259	5	Salem College
51	**Munford**, Marc	LB	6-2	231	4	Nebraska
84	**Nattiel**, Ricky	WR	5-9	180	4	Florida
60	**Perry**, Gerald	T	6-6	305	3	Southern University
91	**Powers**, Warren	DE	6-6	287	2	Maryland
74	**Provence**, Andrew	NT	6-3	270	6	South Carolina
48	**Robbins**, Randy	S	6-2	189	7	Arizona
30	**Sewell**, Steve	RB	6-3	210	6	Oklahoma
49	**Smith**, Dennis	S	6-3	200	10	Southern California
28	**Smith**, Elliott	DB	6-2	192	2	Alcorn State
65	**Smith**, Monte	G	6-4	270	2	North Dakota
50	**Stephens**, Rod	LB	6-1	237	2	Georgia Tech
9	**Treadwell**, David	K	6-1	175	2	Clemson
61	**Townsend**, Andre	DE-NT	6-3	265	7	Mississippi
86	**Verhulst**, Chris	TE	6-2	249	3	California State-Chico
70	**White**, Robb	DE	6-4	270	3	South Dakota
67	**Widell**, Doug	G	6-4	287	2	Boston College
23	**Winder**, Sammy	RB	5-11	203	9	Southern Mississippi
83	**Young**, Mike	WR	6-1	183	6	UCLA

BRONCOS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
2	Alton **MONTGOMERY** *SS*	6-0, 198	**Houston**	Ferocious tackler and superb pass defender . . . Smooth on the turn and go . . . Timed at 4.56 in the 40 . . . All-American second team and All-Southwest Conference first team . . . Nominated for the Jim Thorpe Award . . . Recorded 67 tackles (43 solos) with 5 sacks and 11 tackles for 45 yards in losses.
4	Jeroy **ROBINSON** *ILB*	6-2, 238	**Texas A&M**	Possesses great quickness and is an awesome physical specimen . . . Very agile with explosive acceleration . . . Timed at 4.59 in the 40 . . . All-Southwest Conference . . . Recorded a career high 53 tackles (33 solos) with 1.5 sacks and 8 stops for 19 yards in losses.
5	Jeff **DAVIDSON** *OG*	6-5, 306	**Ohio State**	Massive drive blocker . . . Originally recruited as a center, moving to offensive guard the 1986 season . . . All-Big 10 Conference.
5	Le-Lo **LANG** *CB*	5-11, 184	**Washington**	Former Husky quarterback who has made a smooth adjustment to the defensive backfield . . . Hard-hitting pass defender . . . Can also handle punt return duties . . . The strongest player in the Washington secondary . . . All-American honorable mention . . . All-Pac-10 conference honorable mention . . . Posted 42 tackles (27 solos), including 1 for loss . . . Deflected 3 passes and caused 2 fumbles.
6	Ronnie **HALIBURTON** *TE*	6-4, 230	**Louisiana State**	Two year starter who dramatically improved his blocking skills and at times dominated in one-on-one situations . . . Started all 11 games . . . Caught 20 passes for 291 yards and 3 TDs.
7	Shannon **SHARPE** *WR*	6-2, 221	**Savannah State**	One of the most electrifying receivers in college football who has shattered every school and Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference game, season and career receiving record . . . Holds school records for most consecutive games with a reception (39), with a TD (14) and most games with over 100 yards receiving (10) . . . Rated the premier player below the I-A level by The NFL Draft Report . . . Set school season records with 61 receptions for 1,312 yards (21.5 avg.) and 18 TDs in 1989.
8	Brad **LEGGETT** *C*	6-4, 274	**Southern California**	Consistent and dominating drive blocker with polished pass protection skills . . . Began his career as an offensive guard, moving to the pivot his junior year . . . Recently timed at 5.49 in the 40 . . . Possesses superb upper body strength . . . One of the Trojans' strongest players . . . Bench presses over 400 pounds . . . All-Pac-10 Conference selection in 1989.
9	Todd **ELLIS** *QB*	6-1, 203	**South Carolina**	Rifle-armed quarterback who holds virtually all of the school's passing and total offense records . . . Ranks seventh on the all-time NCAA Division I-A passing list with 9,519 yards . . . Suffered a torn medial collateral ligament in his left knee on the third play of the eighth game of 1989 . . . Finished with 1,374 yards and 10 TDs on 103 of 187 passes.
10	James **SZYMANSKI** *DE*	6-5, 268	**Michigan State**	Appeared in 10 games last season but only started one . . . Made 15 tackles including 2 sacks.
10	Anthony **THOMPSON** *TB*	5-11, 207	**Indiana**	Holds the school and career records for rushing with 5,299 yards and second on the Big 10 Conference all-time chart behind Archie Griffin . . . Holds the school, conference and NCAA record with 68 TDs . . . Holds the school and conference record with 412 points scored and 1,161 rushing attempts . . . Unanimous All-American choice and league Offensive Player-of-the-Year . . . Led the nation in rushing, setting a school season record with 1,793 yards and 24 TDs on 358 carries in 1989 . . . Returned 18 kickoffs for 394 yards (21.9 avg.) and had 35 catches for 201 yards and 1 TD.

BRONCOS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	BRONCOS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	308	246
Rushing	125	90
Passing	163	142
Penalty	20	14
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	111/240	73/210
4th Down: Made/Atts.	2/9	12/24
TOTAL NET YARDS	5093	4407
Avg. Per Game	318.3	275.4
Total Plays	1071	977
Avg. Per Play	4.8	4.5
NET YARDS RUSHING	2092	1580
Avg. Per Game	130.8	98.8
Total Rushes	554	426
NET YARDS PASSING	3001	2827
Avg. Per Game	187.6	176.7
Tackled/Yards Lost	43/351	47/374
Gross Yards	3352	3201
Attempts/Completions	474/256	504/268
Pct. of Completions	54.0	53.2
Had Intercepted	20	21
PUNTS/AVERAGE	80/39.8	84/41.0
NET PUNTING AVG.	33.7	35.0
PENALTIES/YARDS	83/594	102/823
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	26/12	43/22
TOUCHDOWNS	40	25
Rushing	15	10
Passing	21	13
Returns	4	2

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
BRONCOS	84	114	57	104	3	362
OPP. TOTAL	44	53	50	76	3	226

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Treadwell	3-3	13-14	8-8	3-7	0-1	27-33

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Humphrey	294	1151	3.9	40	7
Winder	110	351	3.2	16	2
Elway	48	244	5.1	31	3

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Johnson	76	1095	14.4	69	7
Jackson	28	446	15.9	49	2
Sewell	25	416	16.6	56	3
Young	22	402	18.3	47	2
Humphrey	22	156	7.1	13	1

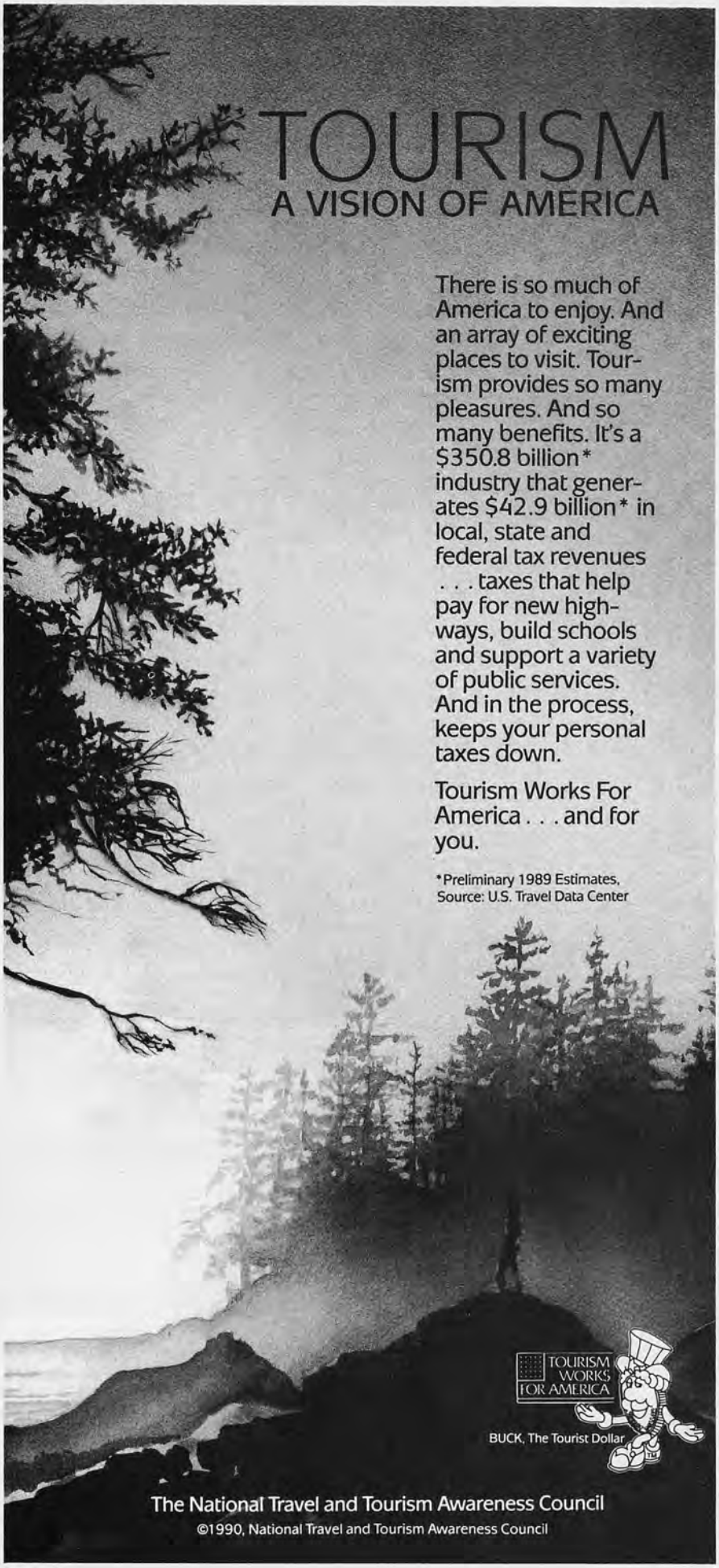
INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Braxton	6	103	17.2	t34	1
Henderson	3	58	19.3	25	0
Atwater	3	34	11.3	30	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Horan	77	3111	40.4	5	24	63	0
Elway	1	34	34.0	1	0	34	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Bell	21	3	143	6.8	24	0
Johnson	12	6	118	9.8	34	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Bell	30	602	20.1	33	0
Carrington	6	152	25.3	68	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Elway	416	223	3051	53.6	7.33	18	4.3	18	4.3	69	35/298	73.7
Kubiak	55	32	284	58.2	5.16	2	3.6	2	3.6	22	8/53	69.1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AROUND THE NFL

❑ *continued from page 6.*

NFC Central: **Bears, Lions, Packers, Vikings**

NFC West: **Rams, 49ers, Chargers, Cardinals**

AFC East: **Jets, Patriots, Baltimore, Bills**

AFC South: **Saints, Oilers, Chiefs, St. Louis**

AFC Central: **Steelers, Browns, Colts, Bengals**

AFC West: **Raiders, Los Angeles, Seahawks, Broncos**

There were five coaching changes this season, about normal. Only three of the choices are making their debuts as head coaches — Bruce Coslet with the Jets, Joe Bugel with the Cardinals and Rod Rust with the Patriots.

Jerry Glanville moved from Houston to Atlanta, while Jack Pardee came back from the college ranks but only had to move crosstown from the University of Houston to the Oilers.

Those coaches get the normal grace period that the fans, media and their bosses give to a new staff. At the other end of the NFL spectrum are the coaches who will need productive years to stay secure.

Look for these coaches to be on the hot seat:

- Chuck Knox, who is in the final year of a big contract and who works for Ken Behring, an owner not likely to dig deep in his pockets for a coach who hasn't gotten to the Super Bowl.
- Ray Perkins. Yes, we know all about the million dollars and the unlimited power. But the Bucs haven't shown much progress under Perkins, while everyone else in the division has moved up to challenge or surpass the Bears. Perkins wasn't much more successful at New York or Alabama.
- Buddy Ryan, whose defensive coaching prowess is exceeded only by the lack of wisdom that comes from his mouth. The Eagles are a team built around a core of super players who make big plays. There isn't a whole lot more there, and if Philadelphia slides this season, Ryan's path out of the City of Brotherly Love would be greased.❑

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

SHELL BRINGS BACK THE TRADITION

BY JAY LAWERENCE

Raiders managing general partner Al Davis couldn't suppress a smile as he strode to the front of the banquet room at the NFL owners meetings in Orlando, Fl last March.

What had been rumored for several months had finally become reality. Davis was moving the Los Angeles Raiders back to Oakland, the city he abandoned for Southern California in 1982.

Davis agreed to a $660 million deal, which included a $50 million relocation fee, renovation of the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum and guaranteed sellouts for five years.

But then, something went wrong. The citizens of Oakland decided the money being promised to Davis and the Raiders might be better spent in other areas. The citizens wanted to vote, so the move fell apart.

This is a team that has not had a winning season — or made the playoffs — since 1985. Victory by fear and intimidation is a fading memory.

Davis had hoped moving would recapture what former Raiders cornerback Lester Hayes called the "fear factor" when other teams played at the Oakland Coliseum.

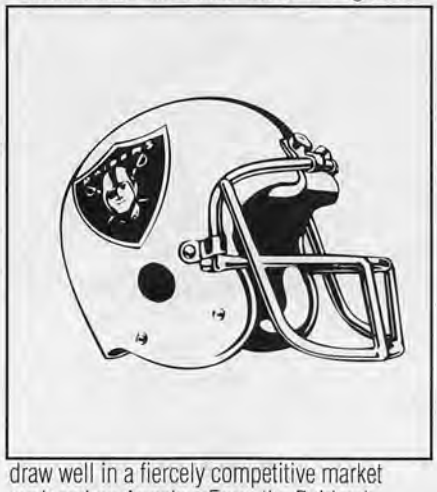
"People used to be afraid," said Raiders coach Art Shell, who played 14 seasons in Oakland. "They didn't want to come and play in that stadium. Nobody wanted to come and play in that stadium. There was a fear factor. They thought our fans were crazy, but they were good fans."

"I've been in places where fans were obnoxious and treated you like a dog. Our fans were tough fans, but they were good fans."

Despite recent events, the Raiders are still looking for a new home. Just when and where a move might take place is still up in the air.

The Raiders still have two seasons remaining on their lease at the Los Angeles Coliseum. Davis claimed the LA Coliseum breached the agreement, and essentially forced the move, by reneging on promises to renovate the stadium. But the team might not be willing to challenge the lease in court.

The lease does not contain a buyout clause, although a financial settlement might be in the best interest of both sides. The rent received by the Coliseum is tied to attendance. A lame-duck team would not figure to



draw well in a fiercely competitive market such as Los Angeles. From the Raiders' standpoint, a lame-duck season is almost certain to hurt fan support at the 92,488-seat LA Coliseum.

"It's not an easy thing to do to play when you only have 30,000 or 35,000 fans," Shell said. "But again, we have to be professional about it and do what we have to do."

Restoring the Raiders' identity will not be accomplished by the move alone. Toward that goal, Davis made another major change last October, when he fired former Coach Mike Shanahan and hired Shell.

Shell, who was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame last year, had served as the Raiders' offensive line coach since retiring as a player in 1983. He became the first black head coach of the NFL's modern era.

Davis, however, said Shell was hired, not because he was black, but because he was silver and black. Shell was brought up in the Raiders' system and believes in Davis' philosophies — power running game, deep-passing attack and ferocious hitting on defense.

The players embraced Shell last season and the Raiders won seven of their final 12 games. Had they beaten either Seattle or the New York Giants during the final two weeks of the season, they would have made the playoffs.

"I don't foresee any major changes," Shell said. "I think this team is close enough to being where we want to be."

But several personnel problems exist, starting at quarterback.

Steve Beuerlein and Jay Schroeder each became free agents Feb. 1. Beuerlein definitely figures in the team's plans, but Schroeder might not.

The trade that brought Schroeder from Washington to Los Angeles for offensive tackle Jim Lachey and several draft picks proved disastrous for the Raiders.

In two seasons, Schroeder earned $1.9 million for throwing 21 touchdown passes and 26 interceptions. Beuerlein, meanwhile, impressed teammates with his leadership, cool under fire and willingness to play hurt.

"I feel confident about the quarterback situation," Shell said. "I feel good about Steve and I still have confidence in Jay. He struggled last year and just wasn't the guy we feel can play the game of football. Steve, like most young guys, was up and down. But I still feel good about both of them."

Another potential crisis could arise at running back.

Bo Jackson does not arrive until near midseason and Marcus Allen is a free agent. Davis' dislike for Allen is no secret, but without the five-time Pro Bowl running back, the Raiders appear in trouble. Last year, Allen missed the exhibition season because of a contract dispute. Without him, the Raiders averaged 55 yards rushing a game.

Howie Long is an institution for the Raiders on defense.

PAUL JASIENSKI

"I'm sure Mr. Davis will do what he thinks is necessary to get Marcus signed," Shell said. "If not, he will do whatever he has to do to rectify the situation."

Jackson was spectacular immediately after arriving last October. He had a 73-yard touchdown run against Washington in his third game and a 92-yard scoring run against Cincinnati the following week. But Jackson appeared tired late in the year. He had only one 100-yard game during the final six weeks of the season.

Even if Jackson's late-season decline was the result of his two-sport career, Shell is unconcerned.

"I don't worry about Bo," Shell said. "The most difficult part is getting Bo acclimated to what you're doing. Getting him to again go through in his brain the pass-protection scheme. Other than that, it's pretty easy.

"Bo acclimates himself and he's a pretty bright guy. He understands things very quickly. It's not a negative when he comes in, it's a plus. Players enjoy seeing him come in. The guy is such a great player."

Steve Smith has become a reliable blocker at fullback for either Allen or Jackson. The overall blocking should be even stronger in 1990.

Davis took one large step toward correcting the shortcomings of the offensive line. During the off-season, former Cincinnati Bengals Pro Bowl guard Max Montoya was signed as a Plan B free agent.

"He's going to help solidify the line," Shell said. "We have a young group. This guy, being around as long as he has, will help solidify that group." Montoya played right guard for 11 seasons in Cincinnati, but, might move to the left side next year because of Steve Wisniewski, who had a spectacular rookie year at right guard in 1989.

The Raiders also have a Pro-Bowl caliber center in Don Mosebar, who returned to the position last season after one year at tackle.

Bruce Wilkerson is improving at right tackle, but left tackle Rory Graves endured a difficult season in '89. During one game, he was called for holding on three successive downs. The position is pivotal in the Raiders' power running attack.

"Graves is a very good run blocker," Shell said. "And he's a very strong guy in pass protection. He's still young. He only started one year before last season. He got into a rut there last year where he got a lot of holding calls and hurt his confidence. But I've talked to him and he understands these things. He will be better."

Former Houston Oilers assistant Kim Helton was hired as the new offensive line coach. Helton replaced Alex Gibbs, a holdover from Shanahan's staff. Gibbs was named offensive line coach for the San Diego Chargers.

If the offensive line performs up to expectations and the quarterback situation is settled, the Raiders' passing attack should flourish.

Tight end Mike Dyal replaced Todd Christensen, who was waived last year, and finished the season with 27 receptions. Dyal is a rising star.

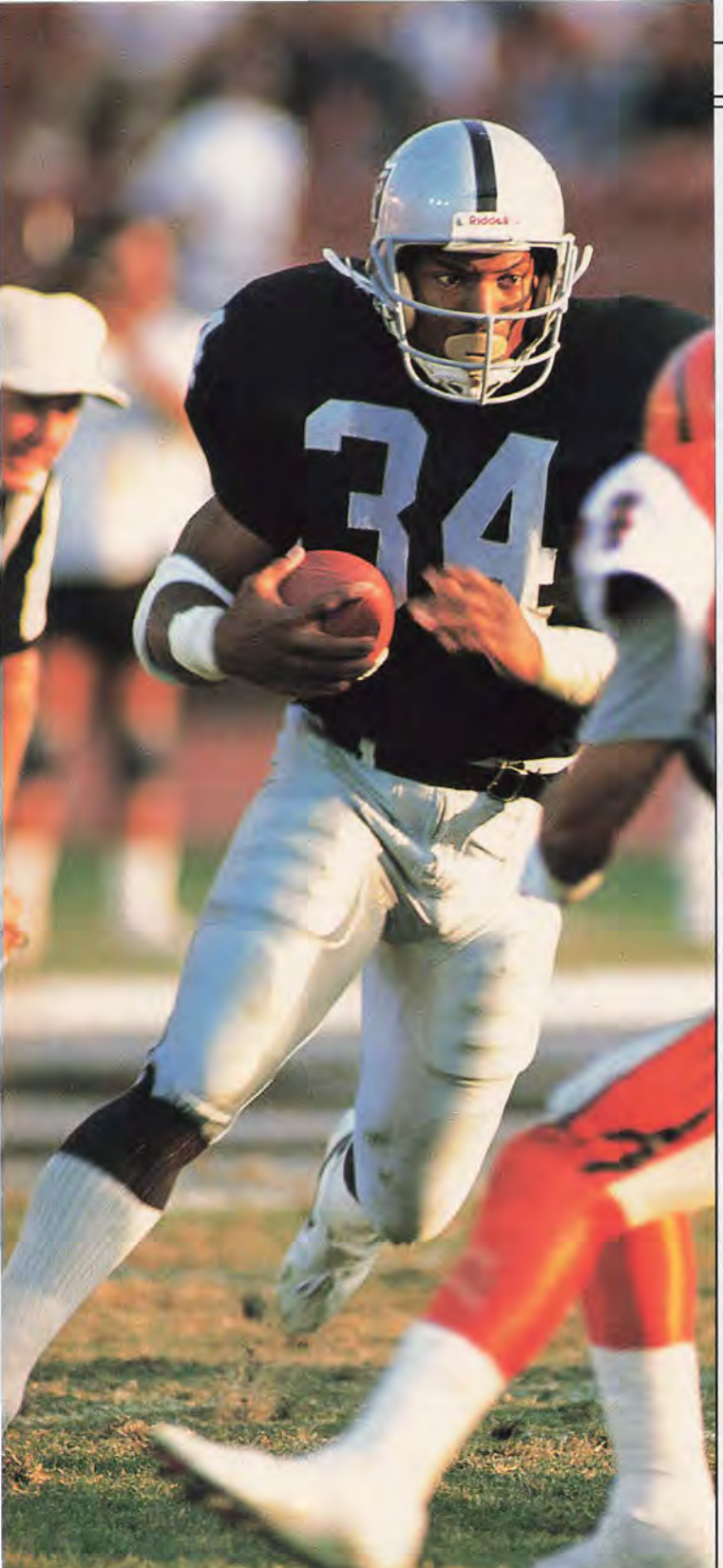
His 67-yard touchdown catch against Denver last December sent the game into overtime. His 26-yard catch in overtime led to the game-winning field goal. By the end of year, Dyal was the most reliable receiver on the team.

Tim Brown tore knee ligaments in the

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
44	**Adams**, Stefon	S	5-10	190	5	East Carolina
89	**Alexander**, Mike	WR	6-3	195	2	Penn State
32	**Allen**, Marcus	RB	6-2	205	9	Southern California
33	**Anderson**, Eddie	S	6-1	200	5	Fort Valley State
54	**Benson**, Tom	LB	6-2	240	7	Oklahoma
7	**Beuerlein**, Steve	QB	6-2	210	3	Notre Dame
FA	**Brown**, Ron	CB	5-11	185	7	Arizona State
81	**Brown**, Tim	WR	6-0	195	2	Notre Dame
FA	**Burton**, Ron	LB	6-1	245	4	North Carolina
29	**Carter**, Russell	S	6-2	200	7	Southern Methodist
FA	**Campbell**, Joe	LB	6-3	240	3	New Mexico State
70	**Davis**, Scott	DE	6-7	275	3	Illinois
84	**Dyal**, Mike	TE	6-2	240	2	Texas A&I
FA	**Fitzpatrick**, James	T	6-8	300	5	Southern California
86	**Fernandez**, Mervyn	WR	6-3	200	4	San Jose State
19	**Francis**, Jeff	QB	6-4	215	1	Tennessee
83	**Gault**, Willie	WR	6-1	175	8	Tennessee
63	**Gesek**, John	G	6-5	280	4	Cal State-Sacramento
79	**Golic**, Bob	DT	6-2	280	11	Notre Dame
6	**Gossett**, Jeff	P	6-2	195	9	Eastern Illinois
85	**Graddy**, Sam	WR	5-10	175	3	Tennessee
60	**Graves**, Rory	T	6-6	290	3	Ohio State
45	**Harden**, Mike	S	6-1	195	11	Michigan
62	**Harrell**, Newt	G	6-5	290	2	West Texas State
22	**Haynes**, Mike	CB	6-2	195	15	Arizona State
65	**Hellestrae**, Dale	G	6-5	285	5	Southern Methodist
88	**Horton**, Ethan	TE	6-4	240	4	North Carolina
98	**Hunley**, Ricky	LB	6-2	250	7	Arizona
34	**Jackson**, Bo	RB	6-1	235	4	Auburn
18	**Jaeger**, Jeff	K	5-11	195	3	Washington
87	**Junkin**, Trey	LB	6-2	240	8	Louisiana Tech
92	**King**, Emanuel	LB	6-4	250	6	Alabama
52	**King**, Linden	LB	6-4	245	13	Colorado State
FA	**Klostermann**, Bruce	LB	6-4	235	4	North Dakota State
25	**Land**, Dan	CB	6-0	190	3	Albany State
75	**Long**, Howie	DE	6-5	270	10	Villanova
37	**Lloyd**, Doug	RB	6-1	220	1	North Dakota State
36	**McDaniel**, Terry	CB	5-10	175	2	Tennessee
26	**McElroy**, Vann	S	6-2	195	9	Baylor
FA	**Montoya**, Max	G	6-4	280	12	UCLA
72	**Mosebar**, Don	C	6-6	280	8	Southern California
42	**Mueller**, Vance	RB	6-0	220	5	Occidental
FA	**Patterson**, Elvis	CB	5-11	200	7	Kansas
FA	**Peat**, Todd	G	6-2	290	3	Eastern Illinois
71	**Pickel**, Bill	DT	6-5	265	8	Rutgers
31	**Porter**, Kerry	RB	6-1	220	3	Washington State
20	**Price**, Dennis	CB	6-1	175	3	UCLA
57	**Robinson**, Jerry	LB	6-2	225	12	UCLA
78	**Rother**, Tim	T	6-7	275	2	Nebraska
13	**Schroeder**, Jay	QB	6-4	215	7	UCLA
35	**Smith**, Steve	RB	6-1	235	4	Penn State
39	**Strachan**, Steve	RB	6-1	220	6	Boston College
FA	**Streeter**, George	S	6-2	210	2	Notre Dame
93	**Townsend**, Greg	DE	6-3	260	8	Texas Christian
67	**Turk**, Dan	C	6-5	275	5	Wisconsin
48	**Washington**, Lionel	CB	6-0	185	8	Tulane
68	**Wilkerson**, Bruce	T	6-5	285	4	Tennessee
90	**Wise**, Mike	DE	6-7	275	4	Cal-Davis
76	**Wisniewski**, Steve	G	6-4	280	2	Penn State
66	**Wright**, Steve	T	6-6	280	8	Northern Iowa

RAIDERS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Anthony **SMITH** *DE*	6-5, 257	**Arizona**	Versatile and aggressive performer who has played every position on the defensive line during his collegiate career . . . Finished sixth on the team with 71 tackles (35 solos) and 5 sacks.
2	Aaron **WALLACE** *OLB*	6-3, 236	**Texas A&M**	Holds the school career quarterback sack record with 42 . . . All-American second team selection by Football News . . . Consensus All-Southwest Conference . . . Recorded 69 tackles (43 solos) with a team high 10.5 sacks, 15 stops for 110 yards in losses and 22 quarterback pressures.
4	Torin **DORN** *CB-HB*	6-1, 194	**North Carolina**	Timed at 4.55 in the 40 . . . Made 48 tackles (38 solos) and caused 1 fumble . . . Led the Tar Heels with 11 pass deflections . . . Had 3 interceptions for 85 yards in returns . . . Added 187 yards on 10 kickoff returns (18.7 avg.).
5	Stan **SMAGALA** *CB*	5-10, 189	**Notre Dame**	Traded to Dallas . . . Gutsy tackler with great leaping ability with 4.45 speed in the 40 . . . Rugged tackler with a nose for the ball . . . All-American honorable mention from UPI . . . Made 45 tackles (30 solos) and deflected 6 passes.
6	Marcus **WILSON** *TB*	6-1, 204	**Virginia**	Ranks sixth on the school's all-time rushing list with 2,219 yards . . . Became only the fifth runner in school history to rush for over 1,000 yards in a season . . . Led the team with 1,098 yards and 4 TDs on 223 carries . . . Caught 20 passes for 161 yards and 2 TDs . . . Averaged 128.6 all-purpose yards per game.
7	Garry **LEWIS** *CB*	6-0, 175	**Alcorn State**	All-American second team honors from AP . . . All-Southwestern Conference choice . . . Recorded 25 tackles (22 solos) and recovered 4 fumbles . . . Had 3 interceptions for 18 yards in returns and deflected 15 passes.
8	Arthur **JIMERSON** *LB*	6-3, 230	**Norfolk State**	Named to the Kodak All-American team for Division I . . . American Football Coaches Association's outstanding linebacker . . . Concluded his collegiate career with 101 tackles in 1989 (44 solos) . . . Recorded 13 sacks for a total of 121 yards lost.
9	Leon **PERRY** *FB*	6-1, 227	**Oklahoma**	A standout blocker and punishing inside runner . . . Able to spread the defense with his ability to turn the corner and break free for a long gainer . . . Recently timed at 4.79 in the 40 . . . Carried 132 times for 582 yards (4.4 avg.) and 9 TDs in 1989.
11	Ronald **LEWIS** *WR*	5-11, 172	**Florida State**	Ranks ninth on the school's all-time list with 85 receptions and eighth with 1,582 yards receiving . . . Selected in the tenth round of the June 1988 baseball draft by the California Angels . . . Had 27 receptions for 535 yards (19.8 avg.) and 3 TDs in 1989.
11	Myron **JONES** *TB*	5-10, 189	**Fresno State**	One of the fastest players to ever perform for the Bulldogs . . . Recently timed at 4.41 in the 40 . . . Started all year at fullback in 1989, rushing for 863 yards and 14 TDs on 158 carries (5.5 avg.) . . . Led the team in scoring with 90 points.
12	Major **HARRIS** *QB*	6-1, 211	**West Virginia**	Only the second player in college football history to rush for over 2,000 yards and pass for over 5,000 yards during his career . . . Holds the school's career records for total offense (7,334) and total TDs (59) . . . Second in career passing yards (5,173) and TD passes (41).
12	Demetrius **DAVIS** *TE*	6-4, 230	**Nevada-Reno**	Possesses deceptive speed and great leaping ability . . . Finished second on the team with 33 receptions for 539 yards (16.3 avg.) and 7 TDs in 1989.



Bo would like to "know" a division title.

GEORGE ROSE / ALLSPORT

season opener last year, but Mervyn Fernandez stepped in and led the team in receiving with 57 catches.

Willie Gault, however, continued to disappoint. In his second season since being acquired for a No. 1 draft pick from Chicago in 1988, Gault had only 28 receptions and several key drops. But Gault is a favorite of Davis, and Shell is quick to defend the wide receiver.

"You've got to understand," Shell said. "Willie is not going to be a guy who is going to lead your football team, in my mind, in receptions. He's not that kind of guy. He's a Cliff Branch. Cliff Branch didn't have a lot of receptions in our offense. He had a lot of big plays, which Willie does for us too.

"I'm sure Willie will get better. He's going to drop some balls, that's the nature of the game. But he's going to make a lot of big catches for us too. We've got to make sure he's got the ball."

The defensive line again became a force last season with the return of Howie Long.

Long had missed 10 games in 1988 because of a blood clot in his calf. He sprained his ankle last year in training camp, but seemed to be rejuvenated when Shell was hired on Oct. 3. He eventually finished with five sacks and was voted to the Pro Bowl for the sixth time in the past seven seasons.

"Howie just did what everybody knew he could do," Shell said. "He was injured the year before. That's the only thing that stopped Howie. He makes everyone's job easier when he's in there."

Bob Golic offered solid play at nose tackle last season, but the Raiders still finished 16th against the run. Defensive end Scott Davis was adequate in '89, his second year in the league, but made headlines during the off-season for the wrong reasons. Davis allegedly assaulted a former girlfriend in Chicago. Three days before the Raiders drafted him in the first round in 1988, Davis had been charged with slapping a woman in a Champaign, IL nightspot.

While the defensive line remains a strength, the same cannot be said for the linebacking corps.

Greg Townsend, who led the team with 10 1/2 sacks last season, is listed as a linebacker, but primarily is a defensive end in the four-man front. Jerry Robinson remains effective, but will be 33 next season. Thomas Benson, who was signed as a Plan B free agent last year, was an asset on run defense, but there is little proven depth at any of the linebacker positions.

The Raiders appear set at cornerback with Terry McDaniel and Lionel Washington, providing both remain healthy. Backup Dennis Price is inexperienced and Mike Haynes, if he returns, will be 37 this season.

The biggest mystery in the secondary is the phasing out of two-time Pro Bowl free safety Vann McElroy, who was considered the glue in the defensive backfield. Davis prefers Eddie Anderson, known for his bone-jarring tackles and mental errors.

Former Bronco Mike Harden was signed as a free agent last year and ended the season as the starting strong safety. Veteran Russell Carter will push Harden this season, but it is another position with little depth.

Kicker Jeff Jaeger was unspectacular, but functional. Jaeger converted 23 of 34 field-goal attempts.

Punter Jeff Gossett averaged 40.5 yards a kick last season. Gossett also is an accomplished holder on extra-point tries and field goal attempts.

The Raiders' difficulties on special teams last season resulted from poor coverage on kickoffs and punts. The Raiders did not return either a kickoff or a punt for a touchdown last season. But opponents returned two kickoffs for touchdowns and one punt for a score last year.

Consequently, special teams Coach Pete Rodriguez was fired. He was replaced by former Chargers general manager Steve Ortmayer, who served as Raiders special teams coach from 1978-86.

Despite their deficiencies, the Raiders should contend in the mild AFC West this season. It's just uncertain which city they will eventually call home.

"We can't worry about where we'll be playing," Shell said. "The players job is to play. We have to remain focused. No matter where we are, it's still the same game."

That might not be entirely true.❑

RAIDERS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	RAIDERS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	259	308
Rushing	93	121
Passing	143	160
Penalty	23	27
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	67/197	110/225
4th Down: Made/Atts.	9/13	6/13
TOTAL NET YARDS	4989	5003
Avg. Per Game	311.8	312.7
Total Plays	912	1045
Avg. Per Play	5.5	4.8
NET YARDS RUSHING	2038	1940
Avg. Per Game	127.4	121.3
Total Rushes	454	504
NET YARDS PASSING	2951	3063
Avg. Per Game	184.4	191.4
Tackled/Yards Lost	44/326	35/248
Gross Yards	3277	3311
Attempts/Completions	414/201	506/277
Pct. of Completions	48.6	54.7
Had Intercepted	22	18
PUNTS/AVERAGE	67/40.5	72/40.3
NET PUNTING AVG.	33.9	33.9
PENALTIES/YARDS	132/1105	105/867
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	28/12	40/18
TOUCHDOWNS	35	36
Rushing	9	15
Passing	21	18
Returns	5	3

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
RAIDERS	67	87	91	67	3	315
OPP. TOTAL	77	77	65	78	0	297

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Jaeger	1-1	8-10	8-9	5-12	1-2	23-34

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Jackson	173	950	5.5	92	4
Smith	117	471	4.0	21	1
Allen	69	293	4.2	15	2

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Fernandez	57	1069	18.8	75	9
Gault	28	690	24.6	84	4
Dyal	27	499	18.5	67	2
Allen	20	191	9.6	26	0
Smith	19	140	7.4	14	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Anderson	5	233	46.6	87	2
Washington	3	46	15.3	32	1
McDaniel	3	21	7.0	20	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Gossett	67	2711	40.5	7	13	60	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Adams	19	5	156	8.2	15	0
Edmonds	16	4	168	10.5	20	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Adams	22	425	19.3	37	0
Edmonds	14	271	19.4	43	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Bauerlein	217	108	1677	49.8	7.73	13	6.0	9	4.1	67	22/175	78.4
Schroeder	194	91	1550	46.9	7.99	8	4.1	13	6.7	84	20/132	60.3

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

CHIEFS HAVE A SUPER FORMULA

BY RICK GOSSELIN

Forget the fact that the Kansas City Chiefs have not won a division title since 1971. Forget the fact that they have lined up for only one playoff game in the last 18 years. Forget the fact that they have basically bumbled their way through the last two decades.

As the Chiefs enter the 1990s, they have clicked a formula for success into place. They can run the ball, and they can play defense with the best in the NFL, and history decrees a strong defense to be a winning ticket.

"If you look at the past Super Bowl champions," Chiefs' defensive coordinator Bill Cowher said, "you'll see a correlation."

Larry Csonka and the No-Names at Miami, Franco Harris and the Steel Curtain at Pittsburgh, Walter Payton and the 46 Defense at Chicago — Jim Taylor and the Packers, Tony Dorsett and the Cowboys, John Riggins and the Redskins — run the ball, play smothering defense, then get fitted for a Super Bowl ring.

With the emergence of Christian Okoye last season, the Chiefs definitely can run the football. He became the first player in franchise history to lead the NFL in rushing with his 1,480 yards. And with the arrival of linebacker Derrick Thomas and the emergence of end Neil Smith, the Chiefs definitely can play smothering defense. Only two teams (Denver and San Francisco) allowed fewer offensive touchdowns than the Chiefs last season and only one (Minnesota) allowed fewer yards.

Over the final two months of the 1989 season, the Chiefs were as good as any team in the AFC. But they started playing too late. Their 5-2-1 finish was offset by a 3-5 start, leaving them on the verge, but out, of the playoffs with an 8-7-1 record. Still, it was only Kansas City's third winning season in the last 16 years.

"What last year gave us was respect from our opponents," Chiefs' offensive tackle Irv Eatman said. "We're no longer a team that other people look at on their schedule and say, 'That's a victory.' People aren't going to walk in here with an air of superiority about playing us. In their minds, they're not going to know the outcome before the game is played. If they don't do what they have to do, they know they're going to get

beaten and beaten badly. A perfect example of that last year was the Oilers. We were a team capable of beating them, and we beat the heck out of them (34-0). I don't know that they respected us when they came in here, but they did when they left."

In the final five games, with the Chiefs clinging to playoff hopes, they defeated four fellow playoff contenders: Houston, Green Bay and Miami (twice). The Chiefs went on the road in the 14th week and staggered Green Bay's post-season chances with a 21-3 victory, then eliminated the Dolphins in Miami on the final weekend 27-24, but were only to be eliminated themselves later in the day by a Pittsburgh victory.

"At Miami last year, our attitude was that if we got into the playoffs, we'd go all the way," Eatman said. "We felt we could turn it up another notch and do some damage.

"This isn't a knock against Denver, but hell, if they are [a Super Bowl contender], then I know we are. I frankly don't think they're as good as we are. I didn't see anything they accomplished that we can't accomplish. They didn't show me they were the best team in the division, much less the conference. That was the frustrating thing about watching the Super Bowl. You couldn't say that Denver was at a level we can't attain. Denver just got such a good head start on everybody last year."

Denver defeated Kansas City twice last season. The Broncos returned 2 interceptions for touchdowns in a 34-20 victory at Denver in the first meeting, then failed to score an offensive touchdown in a 16-13 victory in the rematch at Kansas City. Okoye played sparingly in the first game against the Broncos because of a pinched nerve in his neck and sat out the second game with a bruised thigh. The Chiefs also lost a road game to the Pittsburgh Steelers, 23-17. Kansas City had 3 possessions in the fourth quarter and marched inside the Pittsburgh 15 each time but failed to score any points.

"I feel like we could very easily have been an 11-5, 12-4 type team," Eatman said. "Look back at those games against Denver and Pittsburgh; those were games well within our range [of winning]. You don't have to reach too far to see we could have easily been that type of football team.

"Heading into this season, I have every reason to think we can win our division. There's no doubt in my mind we can contend for the whole thing."

The Chiefs have the talent to be a contender, especially on defense. Seven members on the Kansas City defensive unit have been voted to the Pro Bowl in their careers: nose tackle Bill Maas, linebackers Thomas and Dino Hackett and defensive backs Lloyd Burruss, Deron Cherry, Albert Lewis and Kevin Ross. Thomas, Hackett,

Burruss and Ross have all been selected once, Maas twice, Lewis three times and Cherry six times. Two other members of the defense that have not gone to the Pro Bowl, ends Smith and Mike Bell, are former No. 1 draft picks.

During the month of November, the Chiefs' defense allowed only one offensive touchdown in four games covering 17 quarters. Three of those opponents (Cleveland, Denver and Houston) went on to the playoffs. The shutout of the Oilers was the first by the Chiefs since 1981.

"We took great strides last year," Cowher said. "We realized how good we can be. That November stretch, that was a phenomenal stretch against some very good football teams. I think we should expect to play like that on a regular basis. We have created a standard now, and we should not be satisfied with anything less."

Lewis, Ross and Thomas all went to the Pro Bowl last season, and the Chiefs felt that Smith, outside linebacker Chris Martin, inside linebacker Hackett and Cherry also had seasons worthy of Pro Bowl consideration.

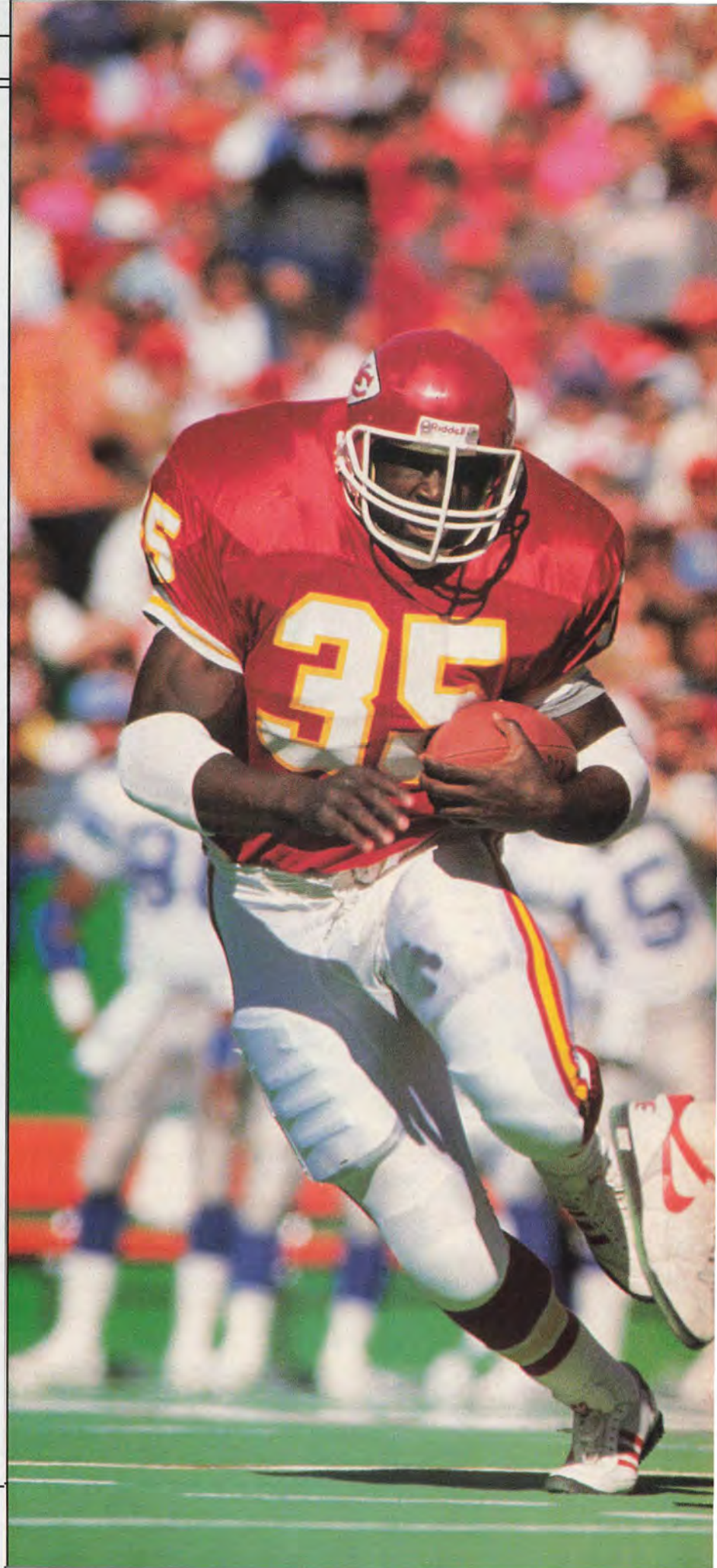
Smith had been the second overall pick of the 1988 draft but didn't play like it in his rookie season, starting only seven games. He made up for lost time in 1989 with a team runner-up 7 1/2 sacks, 4 forced fumbles and 2 fumble recoveries, one of which he returned for a touchdown. Martin, who had been cut by New Orleans and Minnesota earlier in his career, shed his journeyman label with a solid season at strongside linebacker. He had a team runner-up 82 tackles, 4 sacks, 4 forced fumbles and 3 fumble recoveries.

"In my opinion, Chris had the kind of year I've seen from Clay Matthews in years he went to the Pro Bowl," said Chiefs' Coach Marty Schottenheimer, who coached the Browns from 1984-88.

Cherry led the team in tackles with 87 and Hackett finished third with 76, down from their usual 100-tackle seasons. But there was a reason. In the past, those two players were required to make all the tackles because there were so many soft spots in the defense. But what was once soft is now hard.

"I don't think I played any differently than I have in the past," Cherry said. "But we've upgraded our talent. You're there for the tackle, just like you've always been, but now the tackle is already made. This defense probably has more talent than any I've ever played on. That takes the pressure off a lot of people, not just myself. Dino had been making a whole bunch of plays, too, and it's taken the pressure off him."

Lewis and Ross asserted themselves as the dominant cornerbacking tandem in the NFL in a 1989 season that concluded with their all-expenses-paid trips to Hawaii. Both players had 4 interceptions, and they combined to knock down 30 passes. They were the primary reason that the Chiefs ranked second in the NFL in pass defense.



Christian Okoye is the first Chief to lead the NFL in rushing.

ALLEN STEELE / ALLSPORT

Derrick Thomas was the Chiefs' Leader of the Sack.

Accelerating their dash to the top was the addition of Thomas and the pass rush skills he brought with him from Alabama. He was the fourth overall selection of the 1989 draft, the first time the Chiefs had ever spent a first-round pick on a linebacker. He was the AFC Defensive Player-of-the-Week in his second NFL game, and he wound up with a team-leading 10 sacks. Thomas and Detroit running back Barry Sanders were the only rookies voted to start in the Pro Bowl. He gave the Chiefs their first dominant force on the outside since Hall of Famer Bobby Bell retired in 1974.

"The most impressive quality about Derrick is that he wants to be the best, and he's motivated to be the best," Schottenheimer said. "We've all seen players with an abundance of talent that never really become a whole lot because they don't understand the importance of wanting to be the best. This young man wants to be the best. Barring injury, he's going to have an opportunity to be among the best."

Another Chief who did emerge as the best last season was Okoye. He has always been a physical specimen. He's 6'1", 260 lbs. and runs a 4.48. But in his first two NFL seasons, his development was hampered by injuries and by the club's attempt to make Paul Palmer the focal point of the offense. Okoye did have two 100-yard games in his first two seasons, but he never carried the ball more than 22 times in any game.

All that changed when Schottenheimer arrived in 1989. He prefers a power running game geared to the fullback, as he had in Cleveland with Kevin Mack, and he told Okoye that the Chiefs were going to give him the ball over and over and over. Okoye wound up with five 30-carry games in 1989. He averaged 24.6 carries a game, and he thrived on that work load. In his 14 starts, he rushed for an NFL-high eight 100-yard games plus a 98- and a 95-yard game.

"I would think there's still plenty of room for improvement," said Schottenheimer of his prize fullback. "But I would think from 1988 to 1989 would be his greatest improvement as a player. I don't think he can duplicate that [improvement] this year. He's starting from a different standard now."

So are the Chiefs. There are still a few unsettled areas. Incumbent Steve DeBerg will have a hard time holding off Steve Pelluer for the starting quarterback spot, and the Chiefs need some big plays from their wide receivers. Stephone Paige was the team leader last year with only 44 catches, and no one on the team had more than 2 touchdown grabs. But with a huge offensive line that includes Pro Bowl candidates John Alt and Eatman at tackle, a fullback as productive as Okoye and the best defense in the AFC, the Chiefs expect to cash a playoff check in 1990.

"The essence of the personality here now is that they're winners," Chiefs' General Manager Carl Peterson said. "The level of expectations has been raised. That's what we wanted. They have developed a belief that they are winners, that they can play with anybody in the National Football League, that they can beat anybody in the National Football League. We want them to come back this year expecting to win."

And they do. Center Mike Webster, whose five-year clock for Hall of Fame induction starts ticking at his retirement, has decided to play one last year. He's 38. Former Pro Bowl safeties Burruss and Cherry, who were both left unprotected by the Chiefs in Plan B, also decided to stay in Kansas City. Burruss turned down a reported $1.7 million contract from the Cleveland Browns and Cherry, a six-time Pro Bowl pick, kept his distance from the whole Plan B process.

"Do I give up the opportunity of maybe this team becoming a winner next year?" Cherry asked. "I've been here for nine years, and now you're on the verge of something good that could be great; I'd like to think it's going to happen here. After being here nine years, do you want to taste and enjoy that? I don't think we're that far away."❑

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
76	**Alt**, John	T	6-7	300	7	Iowa
54	**Ashley**, Walker Lee	ILB	6-0	231	7	Penn State
77	**Baldinger**, Rich	G-T	6-4	292	9	Wake Forest
99	**Bell**, Mike	DE	6-4	262	10	Colorado State
18	**Birden**, J.J.	WR	5-9	160	1	Oregon
34	**Burruss**, Lloyd	S	6-0	205	10	Maryland
70	**Cannon**, Mark	C	6-3	258	7	Texas-Arlington
20	**Cherry**, Deron	S	5-11	202	10	Rutgers
62	**Chilton**, Gene	C-G	6-3	266	4	Texas
95	**Clark**, Bruce	DE	6-5	275	9	Penn State
55	**Cooper**, Louis	OLB	6-2	238	6	Western Carolina
25	**Copeland**, Danny	S-KR	6-2	210	2	Eastern Kentucky
17	**DeBerg**, Steve	QB	6-3	214	14	San Jose State
42	**Donaldson**, Jeff	S	6-0	190	7	Colorado
75	**Eatman**, Irv	T	6-7	298	5	UCLA
10	**Elkins**, Mike	QB	6-3	225	2	Wake Forest
39	**Floyd**, Norman	DB	6-1	205	1	South Carolina
22	**Gamble**, Kenny	RB-KR	5-10	204	2	Colgate
2	**Goodburn**, Kelly	P	6-2	201	4	Emporia State
49	**Griffin**, James	S	6-2	203	8	Mid. Tennessee State
98	**Griffin**, Leonard	DE	6-4	272	5	Grambling
56	**Hackett**, Dino	ILB	6-3	228	5	Appalachian State
26	**Harmon**, Kevin	RB	6-0	190	3	Iowa
73	**Harris**, Michael	C-G	6-4	306	2	Grambling
86	**Harry**, Emile	WR	5-11	178	4	Stanford
85	**Hayes**, Jonathan	TE	6-5	254	6	Iowa
44	**Heard**, Herman	RB	5-10	194	7	Southern Colorado
41	**Hill**, Willie	S	6-0	200	2	Bishop College
7	**Jaworski**, Ron	QB	6-1	202	16	Youngstown State
43	**Jones**, Bill	RB	5-11	222	1	S.W. Texas State
91	**Jones**, Rod	TE	6-4	245	4	Washington
3	**Karcher**, Ken	QB	6-3	205	3	Tulane
29	**Lewis**, Albert	CB	6-2	198	8	Grambling
8	**Lowery**, Nick	K	6-4	189	11	Dartmouth
72	**Luiz**, David	G-T	6-6	303	8	Georgia Tech
89	**Mandley**, Pete	WR	5-10	195	7	Northern Arizona
63	**Maas**, Bill	NT	6-5	277	7	Pittsburgh
57	**Martin**, Chris	OLB	6-2	232	8	Auburn
92	**McCabe**, Jerry	ILB	6-1	225	3	Holy Cross
50	**McGovern**, Rob	ILB	6-2	223	2	Holy Cross
48	**McNair**, Todd	RB-KR	6-1	185	2	Temple
69	**Meisner**, Greg	DE-NT	6-3	271	10	Pittsburgh
68	**Morris**, Michael	C	6-5	275	3	N.E. Missouri State
64	**Neville**, Thomas	C-G	6-3	280	4	Western Illinois
9	**Nittmo**, Bjorn	K	5-11	179	2	Appalachian State
35	**Okoye**, Christian	RB	6-1	260	4	Azusa Pacific
83	**Paige**, Stephone	WR	6-2	185	8	Fresno State
24	**Pearson**, Jaylce	CB	5-11	185	5	Washington
11	**Pelluer**, Steve	QB	6-4	212	7	Washington
45	**Petry**, Stan	CB	5-11	175	2	Texas Christian
27	**Porter**, Kevin	S	5-10	219	3	Auburn
87	**Roberts**, Alfredo	TE	6-3	246	3	Miami (FL)
93	**Rogers**, Tracy	LB	6-2	235	1	Fresno State
31	**Ross**, Kevin	CB	5-9	182	7	Temple
21	**Saxon**, James	RB	5-11	215	3	San Jose State
97	**Saleaumua**, Dan	NT	6-0	289	4	Arizona State
91	**Shorts**, Peter	DE	6-8	278	1	Illinois State
90	**Smith**, Neil	DE	6-4	271	3	Nebraska
52	**Snipes**, Angelo	OLB	6-0	228	4	West Georgia
58	**Thomas**, Derrick	OLB	6-3	234	2	Alabama
47	**Thomas**, Johnny	DB	5-9	185	3	Baylor
81	**Thomas**, Robb	WR	5-11	171	2	Oregon State
94	**Ward**, David	LB	6-2	232	3	Southern Arkansas
19	**Ware**, Timmie	WR	5-10	175	4	USC
46	**Washington**, Charles	DB	6-1	208	2	Cameron
53	**Webster**, Mike	C	6-2	260	17	Wisconsin
82	**Whitaker**, Danta	TE	6-4	243	1	Mississippi Valley State
65	**Winters**, Frank	C-G	6-3	280	4	Western Illinois
67	**Wolkow**, Troy	G	6-4	280	1	Minnesota
71	**Woods**, Rob	T	6-5	275	1	Arizona
84	**Worthen**, Naz	WR	5-8	177	2	North Carolina State

CHIEFS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Percy **SNOW** *ILB*	6-2, 244	**Michigan State**	Unanimous All-American and All-Big 10 Conference selection . . . Big 10 Conference Defensive Player-of-the-Year . . . Winner of the Lombardi Award . . . Recipient of the Dick Butkus Award . . . Led the team with 163 tackles (94 solos), 2 sacks and 7 stops for 23 yards in losses . . . Blocked 2 kicks and deflected 4 passes . . . Had 3 interceptions for 28 yards in returns.
2	Tim **GRUNHARD** *OG-T*	6-3, 291	**Notre Dame**	Solid prospect with the skills to play anywhere on the offensive line . . . Very effective as a deep snapper for field goal and extra point tries . . . Consistently drives through his man and stays with his blocks . . . Slides well in pass protection . . . Recently timed at 5.16 in the 40.
4	Fred **JONES** *WR*	5-9, 175	**Grambling State**	All-Southwestern Conference pick in 1989 . . . Led the team in receiving, despite missing four contests with an ankle injury . . . Caught 34 passes for 609 yards (17.9 avg.) and 9 TDs during the regular season.
5	Derrick **GRAHAM** *OT*	6-5, 312	**Appalachian State**	Anchor of the Mountaineer offensive line since his sophomore year . . . Great drive blocker with fine strength . . . Recently timed at 5.44 in the 40 . . . All-Southern Conference . . . Did not give up a sack in 12 contests.
5	Ken **HACKEMACK** *DT*	6-8, 298	**Texas**	Was a second team All-Southwest Conference selection as a senior . . . Fifth on the team with 59 tackles . . . Also had 3 sacks and 2 pressures . . . Blocked 1 kick and forced 2 fumbles.
6	Tom **SIMS** *DT*	6-2, 275	**Pittsburgh**	Transferred to Pitt after two years at Western Michigan . . . Started both seasons . . . Collected 142 tackles, 12.5 sacks and 2 fumble recoveries in his two seasons at Pitt.
7	Dave **SZOTT** *OG*	6-4, 273	**Penn State**	Made a smooth and rapid transition to offensive line after playing his previous two seasons on the defensive side of the ball . . . Powerful drive blocker who was one of the major reasons for the revival of the Nittany Lion running game . . . Mobile pass protector.
9	Michael **OWENS** *TB*	5-11, 218	**Syracuse**	Outstanding break-away threat . . . Willing blocker who is an effective receiver coming out of the backfield . . . Extremely tough up the middle . . . Recently timed at 4.64 in the 40 . . . Ranks tenth on the school's career lists in rushing (2,009 yards) and all-purpose yardage (3,089) . . . Started every game in 1989 at halfback, rushing for a career high 1,018 yards with 8 TDs on 211 carries.
10	Craig **HUDSONS** *TE*	6-3, 245	**Wisconsin**	Played tight end his final two years after playing nose guard and linebacker . . . Lettered all four years . . . Led team with 19 receptions for 168 yards (8.8 avg.) . . . Was Wisconsin's Offensive Player-of-the-Year.
11	Ernest **THOMPSON** *SB*	6-2, 226	**Georgia Southern**	Ranks third on the school all-time scoring list with 266 points . . . Second on the school career charts with 44 TDs . . . Ranked among the nation's leaders in scoring with 108 points in 1989.
12	Tony **JEFFERY** *WR*	6-1, 175	**San Jose State**	His 1989 stats speak for themselves with 11 receptions for 321 yards and a 29.2 yard average and 2 TDs . . . Recently timed at 4.38 in the 40 . . . Also a sprinter on the track team, running the 100 and 220.

CHIEFS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	CHIEFS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	304	253
Rushing	120	92
Passing	165	141
Penalty	19	20
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	88/208	81/211
4th Down: Made/Atts.	6/9	8/15
TOTAL NET YARDS	5265	4293
Avg. Per Game	329.1	268.3
Total Plays	1017	952
Avg. Per Play	5.2	4.5
NET YARDS RUSHING	2227	1766
Avg. Per Game	139.2	110.4
Total Rushes	559	445
NET YARDS PASSING	3038	2527
Avg. Per Game	189.9	157.9
Tackled/Yards Lost	23/182	36/294
Gross Yards	3220	2821
Attempts/Completions	435/259	471/236
Pct. of Completions	59.5	50.1
Had Intercepted	23	15
PUNTS/AVERAGE	67/40.1	82/39.1
NET PUNTING AVG.	33.8	32.9
PENALTIES/YARDS	116/878	102/797
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	32/18	32/18
TOUCHDOWNS	35	32
Rushing	18	9
Passing	14	16
Returns	3	7

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
CHIEFS	67	137	53	61	0	318
OPP. TOTAL	74	83	47	82	0	286

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Lowery	1-1	6-6	10-14	6-9	1-3	24-33

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Okoye	370	1480	4.0	59	12
Saxon	58	233	4.0	19	3
Heard	63	216	3.4	28	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Paige	44	759	17.3	50	2
Mandley	35	476	13.6	44	1
McNair	34	372	10.9	24	1
Harry	33	430	13.0	25	2
Heard	25	246	9.8	27	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Lewis	4	37	9.3	22	0
Ross	4	29	7.3	23	0
Cherry	2	27	13.5	27	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Goodburn	67	2688	40.1	5	25	54	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Mandley	19	2	151	7.9	19	0
Worthen	19	5	133	7.0	17	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Copeland	26	466	17.9	36	0
McNair	13	257	19.8	37	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
DeBerg	324	196	2529	60.5	7.81	11	3.4	16	4.9	50	14/111	75.8
Laworski	61	36	385	59.0	6.31	2	3.3	5	8.2	32	1/10	54.3

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

IS GROUND CHUCK OVERDONE?

BY GLENN DROSENDAHL

The day comes for all of us. We look in the mirror and see wrinkles. Sags. Splotches. We realize we aren't quite what we once were.

That day came last season for the Seattle Seahawks. The team that once had everything going for it — benevolent owners, respected coach, youthful enthusiasm, beautiful surroundings, noisiest home-field advantage in the league — woke up with warts. The team couldn't run, it couldn't tackle, it couldn't even win at home. Not only was its AFC West championship lost almost without a fight, but Seattle was the only team in the division that failed to get better.

The Seahawks were worse, fundamentally worse, than at any other time in Chuck Knox's seven years in Seattle. "We don't need a major overhaul," Knox said, but saying otherwise was this collection of gruesome statistics from last year's 7-9 season:

- The running game, known locally as Ground Chuck because of Knox's fondness for basics, produced a franchise low of 87 yards per game.
- Total offense was a franchise low of 287 yards per game.
- The defense managed only nine interceptions and ranked 23rd against the run.
- A team record 43 fumbles contributed to the least typical Knox number of all, a turnover margin of minus-15.

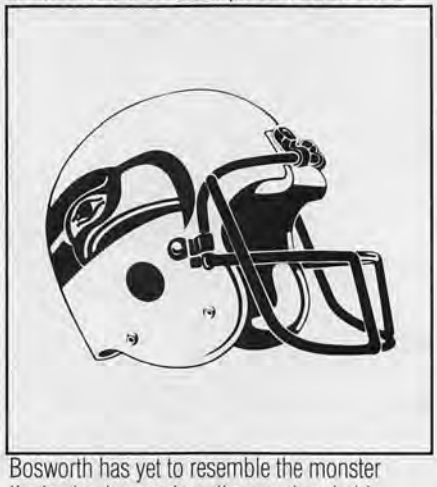
"I can remember when we had minus-1 or minus-2 at Buffalo," Knox said, "but I can't remember ever being minus-15. Minus-15 is unbelievable."

Knox never pointed fingers or assessed blame during the off-season, but last season was a bitter pill for him and his staff. The Seahawk coaches entered the 1989 draft thinking they had only a few holes to fill. They entered the 1990 draft fearing they had mostly holes.

The draft figured to provide the main answer as to whether the Seahawks could right themselves. They had the 8th and 10th picks overall, as well as the 35th. On the other hand, they seemed to need help everywhere but fullback, quarterback and center. The defensive line and secondary were particularly undermanned.

How did they get into this mess?

The answer isn't nearly as simple as B-O-Z, but that's not a bad place to start. Brian



Bosworth has yet to resemble the monster linebacker he was in college and probably never will. He may not even play again. Bad shoulders — the worst kind for someone paid to tackle — have caused him to miss half of his three-year pro career, and no one knows whether they can stand up to contact.

The Seahawks have wasted three years fiddling with Boz-oriented defenses. They also have suffered from his me-first attitude, which alienated him from a good share of his teammates. When he went on injured reserve with his most recent shoulder problem midway through last season, he was sent home rather than have his brooding make things worse.

A less likely villain, but an almost equally disappointing linebacker, is good-natured Tony Woods, Seattle's first-round pick in the regular 1987 draft, shortly before Bosworth arrived via the supplemental draft. Woods seemed to be the big, strong and fast guy Knox has sought for years to rush the quarterback. He hasn't come close to delivering.

So, for the fourth straight season, the defense is facing changes, this time to using more 4-3, as coordinator Tom Catlin keeps looking for ways to do the job with a thin line, a weak secondary, a couple of decent linebackers and mirrors.

Epitomizing the problems on defense last season were a set of rotating cornerbacks that intercepted only two passes (Dwayne Harper) and gave up 23 touchdown passes.

And then there was the continued slide of defensive end Jacob Green who, in his 10th year, managed a career-low 49 tackles. The Seahawks stuck with him because they had no one better.

On offense, the symbol of better years turned futile was running back Curt Warner, who has given immeasurably to the franchise but now is out of gas. Once a brilliant cutback runner, Warner, at 29 is a start-and-stop plodder. He dips toward the line and hangs back. His per carry average has fallen for four straight years, and last season, more than 30 percent of his carries went for no gain or negative yardage.

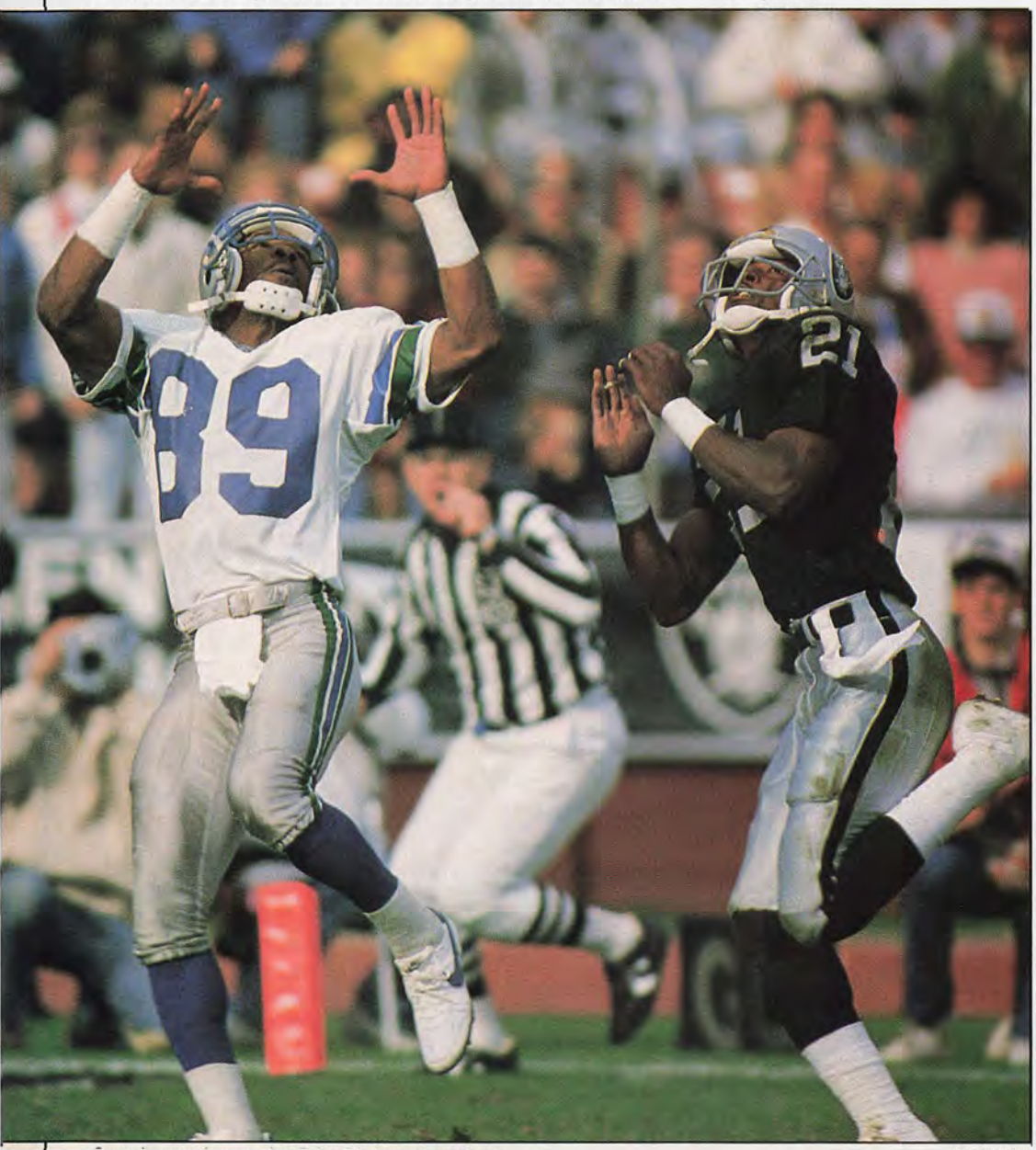
The Seahawks left Warner unprotected and he and his $1.1 million salary, headed down the coast to the Los Angeles Rams.

So where does all this leave the Seahawks? Desperate for new talent and ready to improvise.

As Knox told a reporter at the March league meetings, "The philosophy that some people have attached to us, that we're Ground Chuck, is insane. We haven't been running the ball well, and we need to run it."

Searching for a solution, a way to hide a shortage of brute force, Knox and offensive coordinator John Becker planned to dabble

with a run-and-shoot offense, at least in obvious passing situations. They can use the same people as in their familiar four-wideout set, but give a new look. With quarterback Dave Krieg taking snaps from center instead of back in shotgun formation, he will have more chances to use his considerable improvisational skills or surprise the defense with a run by fullback John L. Williams.



Steve Largent is gone, but Brian Blades can catch, too. PAUL JASIENSKI

As bad as 1989 seemed, all was not lost. This is, after all, a team that won its division in 1988. It has some talent, notably Williams, wide receiver Brian Blades and linebacker Rufus Porter.

It also has a quarterback too long underestimated. Krieg has been bashed by critics and coaches, he was benched again last year, taking the fall for a team-wide slump, but he keeps bouncing back. He completed better than 60 percent of his passes when he returned last season and convinced most observers he has the street-fighter toughness this team badly needs.

Kelly Stouffer may be the quarterback of the future, but Krieg remains the man to lead the Seahawk offense back to life, especially if he has a running game to support him.

Warner's replacement could come from the draft or be one of two promising but largely untested young runners, Derrick Fenner and Elroy Harris.

The greater problem may be up-front, however. The offensive line, a unit rated by Knox as the team's most consistent in 1988, was hurt by contract holdouts last summer and never meshed.

Center Grant Feasel played reasonably well in his first full season as a starter but was vulnerable because of the inconsistency around him. After Feasel, perhaps the team's best lineman was first-round draft pick Andy Heck, a rookie rushed into the lineup when Ron Mattes missed most of camp in a contract squabble.

Mattes never played back into his earlier form, raising doubts if he is a long-term answer at right tackle, where he would replace 12-year veteran Mike Wilson. Heck should become a fixture at left tackle.

Two other starting linemen were late arrivals and played like it. Right guard Bryan Millard was being touted as a Pro Bowl candidate but didn't show his skills. Left guard Edwin Bailey, like Mattes, seemed in a funk.

The result was absolutely no line surge and few holes. Faced with that, Warner slowed and danced in the backfield. Even Williams, arguably the AFC's most complete fullback, began hesitating when handed the ball.

Williams remains a lights-out blocker and a gifted receiver (76 catches last season), but he, like the whole offensive line, must rededicate himself to heading upfield.

Tight end is another part of the problem. Seattle started last year with unknown Robert Tyler, and he was a bust. Rookie Travis McNeal showed some big-play ability late in the year. Plan B signee Ron Heller can only help.

Missing at wide receiver for the first time in Seahawk history will be Steve Largent, who retired with every notable NFL pass-catching record. He already had been surpassed on the field by Blades, the AFC's second-leading receiver, a tough young talent with a knack for scoring. But Largent will be missed in many ways. Nobody ever ran more precise routes, practiced harder or concentrated better.

After Blades, the Seahawks have sure-handed Paul Skansi as a Largent substitute and not much else. Big and fast Louis Clark didn't develop as hoped last year. Tommy Kane, coming off injured reserve, could provide a needed burst of speed. Former Lion Jeff Chadwick, signed as a free agent in mid-season, suddenly looks valuable.

The defense, for all its weaknesses, actually made some statistical strides, especially after Bosworth took a seat. Relying more on the 4-3 and an eight-man front, Catlin coaxed this unit from 24th in total defense to 14th.

Inside linebacker Dave Wyman had a strong season and seems a key to resurgence. Next to him on the inside, Darren Comeaux did a capable job as a substitute for Bosworth, rarely making mistakes, but the coaches view him as only a solid journeyman, not a long-term solution.

On the outside, undersized Porter emerged as a big-time harasser of quarterbacks. The revved-up 220-pounder had a team-high 10.5 sacks as a substitution pass-rusher and earned a spot in any future defense. In his second season since being undrafted out of Southern University, Porter made the Pro Bowl for the second time as the AFC's top special teams player.

The other outside linebackers were disappointing. Woods probably will play more as a down-lineman and M.L. Johnson could lose his roster spot through lack of intensity.

The defensive line has needed help for three years, a period in which Green has steadily slumped. Never much of a run-stopper, he also has lost his sack touch.

His linemates performed heroically. Nose tackle Joe Nash had a career-high 92 tackles while staying healthy, a key to his success because he needs all his quickness to avoid being tied up and overpowered by bigger offensive linemen. Defensive end Jeff Bryant has the size and fighter's heart to move inside and probably will if Woods or someone else can play passably at end.

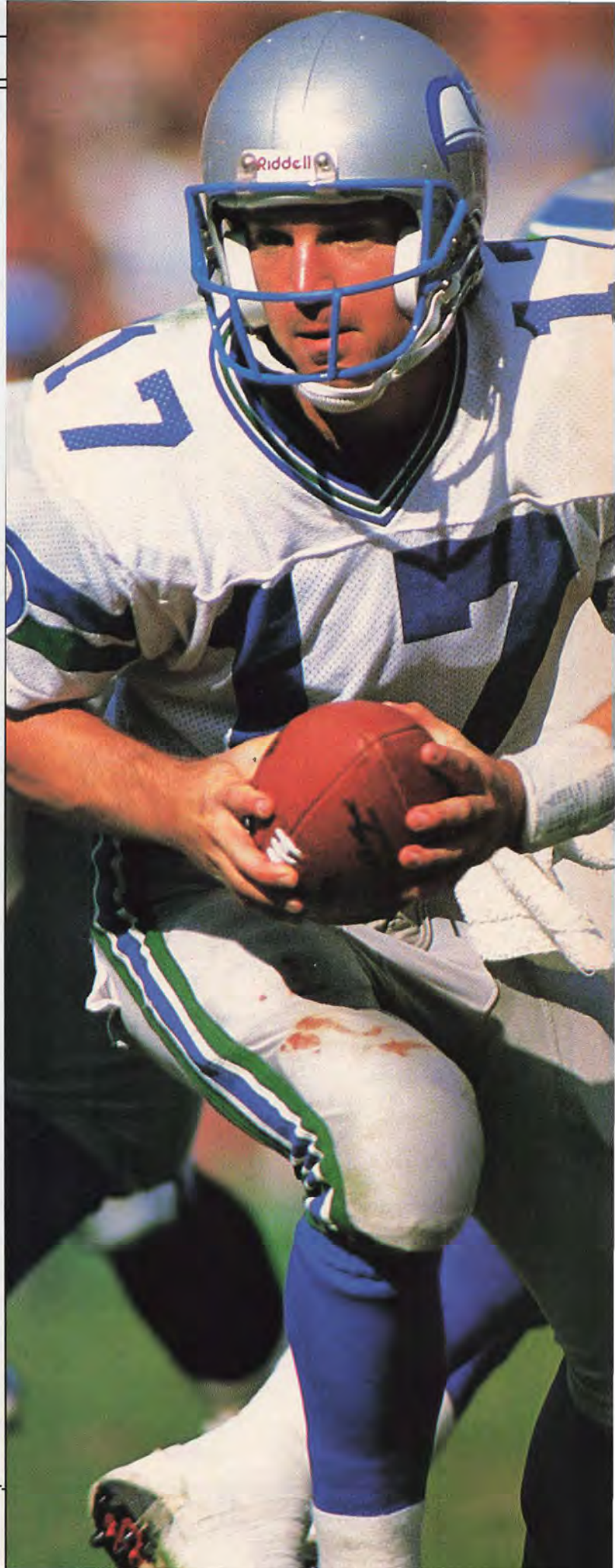
The most damning indictment of the secondary was that strong safety Nesby Glasgow, an 11-year veteran and former Colts reject, was the most reliable player. Free safety Eugene Robinson had a team-high five interceptions, but the feeling remains that he doesn't make as many big plays as he should.

The corners were another headache. Harper, a former 11th round draft pick in his second year, showed some talent but also that he has much to learn. Patrick Hunter started most of the season, but his off-field problems and moodiness grate on the coaches. The other corner, to start at least part-time, Melvin Jenkins, suffered multiple burns while playing yards away from receivers.

Special teams have been a Seahawk strength during the tenure of Coach Rusty Tillman, but erosion of the overall roster has taken its toll here too. Seattle needs a kick returner, wouldn't mind better punting than provided by Ruben Rodriguez last year and hopes for a return to the form of kicker Norm Johnson.

Clearly, the Seahawks have a lot to hope for. They can take heart in the example of Denver, which went from a wimpy 8-8 to 11-5 last year, but they also know the Broncos did it with a major infusion of talent. The Seahawks need that and a new attitude, too. Their so-what manner was never more evident than in the 1989 season finale in the Kingdome, an emotionally-charged setting for Largent's last game. They should have let the fans play. The Seahawks rolled over and lost to Washington 29-0 in a display devoid of effort.

At least by now they should realize what they're up against.❑



Tough Dave Krieg is a leader for Seahawks.

ROBERT BECK / ALLSPORT

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
50	**Ahrens**, Dave	LB	6-4	245	10	Wisconsin
52	**Andrews**, Ricky	LB	6-2	236	1	Washington
65	**Bailey**, Edwin	G	6-4	273	10	South Carolina State
89	**Blades**, Brian	WR	5-11	184	3	Miami (FL)
55	**Bosworth**, Brian	LB	6-2	236	3	Oklahoma
8	**Bouyer**, Willie	WR	6-3	200	1	Michigan State
64	**Brilz**, Darrick	G	6-3	270	4	Oregon State
77	**Bryant**, Jeff	DE	6-5	277	9	Clemson
59	**Cain**, Joe	LB	6-1	228	2	Oregon Tech
88	**Chadwick**, Jeff	WR	6-3	190	8	Grand Valley State
84	**Clark**, Louis	WR	6-0	199	4	Mississippi State
53	**Comeaux**, Darren	LB	6-1	239	9	Arizona State
3	**Donnelly**, Rick	P	6-0	190	6	Wyoming
31	**Edmonds**, Bobby Joe	RB	5-11	186	5	Arkansas
54	**Feasel**, Grant	C	6-7	279	6	Abilene Christian
44	**Fenner**, Derrick	RB	6-3	229	2	North Carolina
90	**Franklin**, Jethro	DE	6-1	258	2	Fresno State
22	**Glasgow**, Nesby	S	5-10	187	12	Washington
79	**Green**, Jacob	DE	6-3	254	10	Texas A&M
29	**Harper**, Dwayne	CB	5-11	174	3	South Carolina State
33	**Harris**, Elroy	RB	5-9	218	2	Eastern Kentucky
63	**Hart**, Roy	NT	6-1	279	2	South Carolina
66	**Heck**, Andy	T	6-6	291	2	Notre Dame
85	**Heller**, Ron	TE	6-3	236	4	Oregon State
27	**Hunter**, Patrick	CB	5-11	186	5	Nevada-Reno
26	**Jefferson**, James	CB	6-1	199	2	Texas A&I
24	**Jenkins**, Melvin	CB	5-10	182	4	Cincinnati
9	**Johnson**, Norm	K	6-2	197	9	UCLA
30	**Jones**, James	FB	6-2	229	8	Florida
81	**Kane**, Tommy	WR	5-11	176	3	Syracuse
23	**Kaumeyer**, Thom	S	5-11	187	1	Oregon
15	**Kemp**, Jeff	QB	6-0	201	10	Dartmouth
58	**Kimmel**, Jamie	LB	6-3	235	3	Syracuse
20	**Kors**, R.J.	S	6-0	195	1	Long Beach State
17	**Krieg**, Dave	QB	6-1	192	11	Milton
70	**Mattes**, Ron	T	6-6	302	5	Virginia
40	**McLemore**, Chris	FB	6-1	230	3	Arizona
86	**McNeal**, Travis	TE	6-3	248	2	Tennessee-Chattanooga
71	**Millard**, Bryan	G	6-5	281	7	Texas
91	**Miller**, Darrin	LB	6-1	236	3	Tennessee
	Moyer, Paul	S	6-1	196	7	Arizona State
72	**Nash**, Joe	NT	6-2	269	9	Boston College
97	**Porter**, Rufus	LB	6-1	221	3	Southern University
98	**Ridgle**, Elston	DE	6-5	270		Nevada-Reno
41	**Robinson**, Eugene	S	6-0	186	6	Colgate
5	**Rodriguez**, Ruben	P	6-2	217	4	Arizona
83	**Sandusky**, Jim	WR	5-10	182	1	San Diego State
82	**Skansi**, Paul	WR	5-11	186	8	Washington
11	**Stouffer**, Kelly	QB	6-3	207	3	Colorado State
56	**Tofflemire**, Joe	C	6-2	274	2	Arizona
87	**Tyler**, Robert	TE	6-5	257	2	South Carolina State
74	**Wheat**, Warren	G	6-6	277	1	Brigham Young
32	**Williams**, John L.	FB	5-11	228	5	Florida
75	**Wilson**, Mike	T	6-5	274	12	Georgia
57	**Woods**, Tony	LB	6-4	244	4	Pittsburgh
92	**Wyman**, David	LB	6-2	242	4	Stanford

SEAHAWKS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Cortez **KENNEDY** *DE-T*	6-3, 293	**Miami**	Fluid pass rusher with great balance . . . All-American selection by The Sporting News . . . Dominating force on what was regarded as the best defensive line unit in college football . . . Led the down linemen with 87 tackles (42 solos) and was second on the team with 6.5 sacks and led the team with 22 tackles for 92 yards in losses.
2	Terry **WOODEN** *OLB*	6-2, 232	**Syracuse**	Has been in the starting lineup since his freshman year . . . Very active and intense player . . . Outstanding pass defender . . . Ranks second on the school's career list with 23 QB sacks and ninth with 278 tackles . . . Second team All-American . . . Started every game in 1989 at OLB, finishing third on the team with 83 tackles (35 solos) while leading the squad with 9 sacks . . . Deflected 3 passes and picked off another.
2	Robert **BLACKMON** *SS*	5-11, 198	**Baylor**	Excels in run force and is willing to sacrifice his body to make the big play . . . All-American honorable mention from The Sporting News . . . All-Southwest Conference choice . . . Recorded 80 hits (42 solos), including 7 tackles for 26 yards in losses . . . Deflected 3 passes and recovered 1 fumble . . . One of the nation's top pass stealers with 8 interceptions for 150 yards and 2 TDs.
3	Chris **WARREN** *TB*	6-2, 225	**Ferrum College**	Regarded by many as one of the finest athletes in the college football ranks . . . Has 4.58 speed in the 40 . . . Bench presses over 350 pounds . . . Exceptional receiving skills coming out of the backfield . . . Despite only two years at Ferrum, closed out his career as the school's all-time leader with 4,583 all-purpose yards and holds the career marks with 43 TDs and 747 yards in punt returns in 1989.
5	Eric **HAYES** *DT*	6-3, 228	**Florida State**	Finished the season ranked sixth on the squad in tackles with 74 . . . Made 36 solo stops and 38 assists . . . Totalled 4 tackles for losses and 6 sacks, second on the team . . . Also caused 1 fumble and recovered 1 more.
6	Ned **BOLCAR** *ILB*	6-1, 231	**Notre Dame**	Possesses great field vision and reaction . . . Extremely physical tackler whose strong suit is vs. the run . . . Paced the team in tackles for the second time in three years, finishing with a career high 109 stops (66 solos), 2 sacks and 8 tackles for 40 yards in losses . . . Also deflected 3 passes.
7	Bob **KULA** *OT-G*	6-3, 282	**Michigan State**	Versatile lineman who shifted from offensive guard to tackle his senior year . . . Has great pulling capabilities and hits well on the move . . . All-Big 10 Conference first team choice.
8	Bill **HITCHCOCK** *OT*	6-6, 308	**Purdue**	Made a smooth and rapid adjustment to offensive tackle after playing on the defensive line earlier in his career . . . Possesses quick feet and tremendous arm strength . . . Ferocious downfield blocker . . . Recently timed at 5.09 in the 40 . . . All-Big 10 Conference . . . Established himself as one of the most dominating one-on-one blockers in the conference . . . Received winning grades for blocking consistency in every game.
10	Robert **MORRIS** *DE*	6-6, 265	**Valdosta State**	Two time All-Gulf South Conference choice . . . Holds school records for quarterback sacks with 32 and tackles for losses with 31 . . . Finished his career with 154 tackles and 6 fumble recoveries . . . Set a single season record with 12 sacks in 1988 . . . Had a career high 57 tackles and 11 sacks in 1988.
11	Daryl **REED** *CB*	6-1, 186	**Oregon**	Two year letterrman . . . Finished his career with 88 tackles, 3 tackles for losses and 2 interceptions . . . Had 61 tackles as a senior and 3 tackles for losses.
12	John **GROMOS** *QB*	6-4, 210	**Vanderbilt**	Strong-armed quarterback who takes advantage of his height to peer over oncoming defenders to find the open receiver . . . Completed 154 of 330 passes (48.1%) for 1,744 yards and 9 TDs in 1989 . . . Completed 30 of a school record 64 passes for 324 yards and 2 TDs vs. Alabama.

SEAHAWKS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	SEAHAWKS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	290	293
Rushing	86	119
Passing	180	158
Penalty	24	16
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	85/211	89/213
4th Down: Made/Atts.	8/17	5/16
TOTAL NET YARDS	4596	5215
Avg. Per Game	287.3	325.9
Total Plays	1010	997
Avg. Per Play	4.6	5.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	1392	2118
Avg. Per Game	87.0	132.4
Total Rushes	405	520
NET YARDS PASSING	3204	3097
Avg. Per Game	200.3	193.6
Tackled/Yards Lost	46/379	32/235
Gross Yards	3583	3332
Attempts/Completions	559/316	445/252
Pct. of Completions	56.5	56.6
Had Intercepted	23	9
PUNTS/AVERAGE	76/39.4	74/39.2
NET PUNTING AVG.	32.9	33.9
PENALTIES/YARDS	79/738	118/809
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	43/14	26/13
TOUCHDOWNS	28	37
Rushing	5	11
Passing	21	23
Returns	2	3

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
SEAHAWKS	72	60	41	68	0	241
OPP. TOTAL	81	80	86	77	3	327

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
N. Johnson	1-1	6-7	3-4	4-8	1-5	15-25

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Warner	194	631	3.3	34	3
Williams	146	499	3.4	21	1
Krieg	40	160	4.0	18	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Blades	77	1063	13.8	t60	5
Williams	76	657	8.6	t51	6
Skansi	39	488	12.5	26	5
Largent	28	403	14.4	33	3
Clark	25	260	10.4	28	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Robinson	5	24	4.8	20	0
Harper	2	15	7.5	15	0
J. Johnson	1	18	18.0	18	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Rodriguez	75	2995	39.9	8	17	59	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Hollis	18	7	164	9.1	21	0
Jefferson	12	10	87	7.3	19	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Jefferson	22	511	23.2	t97	1
Harris	18	334	18.6	25	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
Krieg	499	286	3309	57.3	6.63	21	4.2	20	4.0	t60	37/289	74.8
Stouffer	59	29	270	49.2	4.58	0	0.0	3	5.1	29	9/90	40.9

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

CHARGERS LOOK FOR WINNING SPARK

BY CLARK JUDGE

When San Diego acquired quarterback Jim McMahon last summer, one local paper shrugged off journalistic restraint and immediately proclaimed the Chargers an instant "playoff contender."

McMahon, it predicted, would be McSavior and position the Chargers for a run at their first playoff spot since 1982.

So much for sports fantasies.

The Chargers predictably swooned to their fifth losing season in seven years, and McMahon was McDud, stirring up interest only when he blew his nose on a reporter after his club had blown yet another game.

For the second straight season, San Diego finished 6-10 and for the third time in six years snuggled up for a long winter's nap in the basement of the AFC West.

As there have been after past losing years, casualties were heavy. Steve Ortmayer, the team's director of football operations, was the first to go. Virtually every front-office hire of Ortmayer's went with him, to be replaced less than a month later by ex-Washington GM Bobby Beathard and friends.

Beathard wasted little time retooling the front office, hiring Billy Devaney and Dick Daniels, both out of Washington, to help with personnel.Beathard's presence was felt on the coaching front, too. He convinced head coach Dan Henning that offensive line coach Larry Beightol, a longtime Henning friend, be replaced by Alex Gibbs, who'd worn out his welcome with the Los Angeles Raiders, though Henning had no intentions of making any move in that department.

That incident signaled a new direction for the Chargers. There was no indecision as there had been a year before when it took the team nearly two months to hire Henning as head coach, and there was little overt friction as there had been when ex-head coach Al Saunders clashed with Ortmayer. Henning wasn't pleased with the move, but his resistance was brief and his voice was not strident.

In yet another coaching move, Beathard hired Jack Reilly, who was canned with the rest of the University of Utah staff, to help out with the offense. Reilly is regarded

as a passing expert and should help the club find a quarterback and passing game.

The Chargers, who once led the league in prototechnics, have fallen on hard times in those areas. In 1985, the Chargers were first in passing and first in team offense; since the retirement of Dan Fouts following the 1987 season, they've been in the bottom third of the league in passing.

Last year, they were 21st in offense and 22nd in passing. Not too surprisingly, they managed only 266 points, 23rd in the NFL. What's worse, they scored 20 or fewer points in 11 of their last 12 games. They had 21 in the 12th.

Some of that, of course, had to do with running back Gary Anderson, the team's 1988 MVP. He never showed up to play. Anderson, whose contract expired a year ago, sat out the season after rejecting a four-year, $2.8 million deal. With him, went 1,301 yards of the '88 offense and the only legitimate breakaway threat in the offensive backfield.

Not long after he took over, Beathard resolved to solve the Anderson puzzle. Either the former Pro Bowler would play for the Chargers or the club would seek to deal. In mid-February, Beathard flew to Tampa, Anderson's home, and met with the talented running back, his wife and his agent. All were pleased with the exchange, and all promised to try to resolve their differences, which, from Anderson's perspective, were considerable.

Anderson not only had not been offered a contract he deemed suitable, but he and his wife were so maligned in public comments made last year by Ortmayer that Anderson told friends he would never play again for the Chargers.

At least, as long as Ortmayer was there.

That changed after his meeting with Beathard, who, it should be noted, flew to Tampa instead of having Anderson travel to San Diego. Anderson noticed. The only time he met Ortmayer last season was when he flew to San Diego for a weekend visit and ran into the front-office executive in the parking lot after a game.

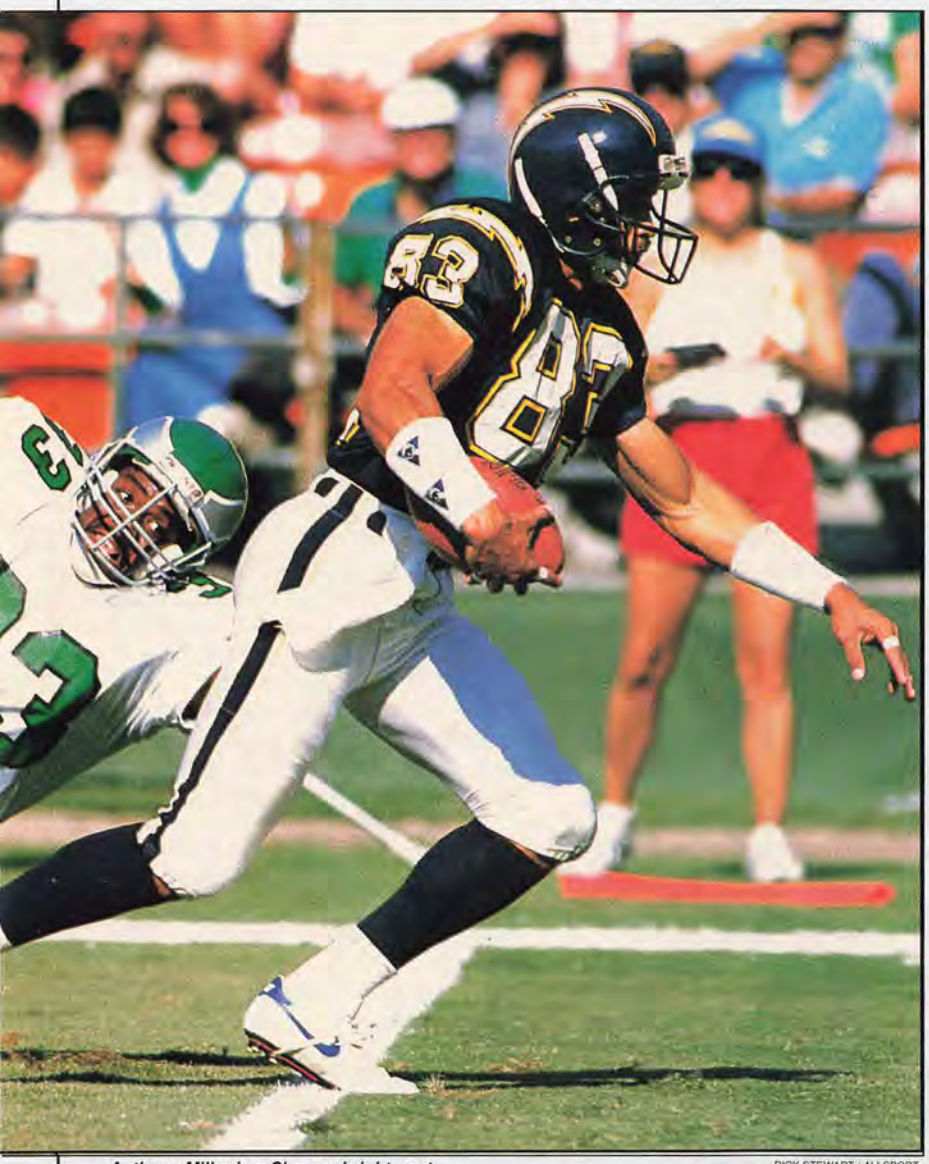
Beathard also charged into the Plan B market, signing Buffalo punter John Kidd to a two-year, $735,000 deal; running back Thomas Sanders, who, like Kidd, drew a healthy $150,000 signing bonus; and hired a passel of offensive linemen to help ease the shortage at the team's neediest position.

Almost to a man, when players were asked why they chose the lowly Chargers as their new home, right up there with the weather and the chance to step in and play was Beathard.

But can Beathard make a difference on the field? His active hand cannot hide a number of glaring team weaknesses, the most noticeable of which is the offensive line. Center

Courtney Hall, who started every game as a rookie last season, is the best of an otherwise so-so group.

Hall, a second-round steal, has the makings of a future Pro Bowler and has been compared to former Miami great Dwight Stephenson. Pencil him in another 10 years.



Anthony Miller is a Charger bright spot. RICK STEWART / ALLSPORT

Left tackle Joel Patten, a Plan B acquisition in 1989, is the only other returning offensive line starter guaranteed his position. Patten, who played despite knee and neck injuries, can't be counted on for long, however. He turned 32 this year.

Right tackle Brett Miller left for the Jets, and right guard David Richards and left guard Broderick Thompson, the remaining starters, might be leaving, too — for other positions. Henning said he's contemplating moving to a tackle position, which gives you an idea how satisfied he was with last year's starting cast.

The offensive line is the primary concern of Beathard and Henning, but quarterback is the most discussed topic outside Chargers' headquarters. McMahon, acquired from Chicago for a second-round pick, was supposed to be the answer, but, one year later, he's more the question.

After a sub-par season that saw him lose seven of 11 starts, throw as many interceptions (10) as touchdowns and finish the last four games on the bench, McMahon's future is in doubt. Though Henning said he'd like to have McMahon back this year to challenge for the starting job, most observers feel McMahon's position — if he's back with the Chargers at all — is as a backup to Billy Joe Tolliver.

Tolliver, another second-round heist, finished the season as the starter, bouncing Kansas City from the playoffs and waxing Super Bowl-bound Denver in his last two games. In two of his last three starts, Tolliver threw for over 300 yards. More important, he seemed to gain an inside track on the starter's job.

Running back Marion Butts was a seventh-round sensation. Butts was supposed to be a special teams wrecking ball and a bulldozer for guys like Anderson and Lionel James and Timmy Smith.

Well, Anderson never showed up, and James and Smith were released, leaving — ta da! — Butts to carry the ball. All he did in a late-season defeat of Kansas City was tote the ball a club-record 39 times for 176 yards. He wound up leading the team with 683 yards and scored nine touchdowns, second only to wide receiver Anthony Miller.

The unsung hero was veteran Tim Spencer, who gained 521 yards before Henning decided to give Butts a look-see at the end of the season. However, this is the year of living dangerously for Spencer; the acquisition of Sanders does not bode well for him.

At wide receiver, the Chargers have one of the game's coming stars in third-year pro Anthony Miller, a Pro Bowl selection last year. All Miller did was have 75 catches (fifth-best in the AFC) for 1,252 yards (second best) and 10 TDs (third best).

Miller piled up most of those numbers with little or no help. Quinn Early, expected to take some of the heat off Miller, missed most of the year with a knee injury, and Jamie Holland, who, like Miller, has sprinter's speed, missed too many passes. Rookie Wayne Walker, who played with Tolliver at Texas Tech, showed flashes but mysteriously disappeared from the offense the last two games.

Where, at tight end, there once was Kellen Winslow, Pete Holohan and Eric Sievers, the Chargers today have Arthur Cox and Joe Caravello. Anyone else? Oh yeah, there's H-back Rod Bernstine, who has the talent to be one the game's top performers but who has been slowed — too much, some inside the organization feel — by injuries.

In what is becoming a familiar story in San Diego, the defense once again was the better side of the ball to be on. The Chargers ranked sixth in defense, their best finish since 1980; their pass defense was fourth, as it was in 1988; and the club didn't allow more than 20 points in 13 of its last 14 games, a team record.

Defensive end Lee Williams, who led the AFC in sacks with 14, justifiably was named a Pro Bowl starter for the second straight year. With 57-1/2 career sacks, Williams is second only to Gary Johnson (67) on the team's all-time list. Still, he has trouble making a name for himself. In Chicago for an exhibition game, he was introduced as "Joe Williams." Nice.

Williams, rookie Burt Grossman and Leslie O'Neal, listed as a linebacker but used as a standup defensive end, combined for 36-1/2

sacks and were the best threesome to hit southern California since sun, sand and sea.

Unlike Williams, Grossman doesn't have to worry about recognition. He gets it everywhere he goes, mostly because he earns it. Prior to the Chargers' game with Pittsburgh, Grossman slammed everything about Steel Town but William Pitt, then said later he didn't really care about taking any of it back. After the season, Grossman announced he, not Kansas City linebacker Derrick Thomas, should be Defensive Rookie of the Year. Know something? He might have been right. With the help of O'Neal, who played every bit as well — if not better — than his rookie year when he was the league's Defensive Rookie of the Year, the Chargers finished with 48 sacks, tops in the AFC and their fourth-best performance ever.

O'Neal was not the only linebacker to play superbly. Inside linebacker Gary Plummer, too often overlooked outside San Diego, led the team in tackles for the second straight year and deserved the Pro Bowl mention he never gets. Outside linebacker Billy Ray Smith was quietly productive (again) and proved the kind of leadership so lacking on defense in past seasons.

If there's a problem, it's at the other inside position, where veteran Jim Collins bowed out and second-year pro Cedric Figaro was little more than adequate.

The secondary produced 25 interceptions — nine more than 1988 — and, for the second straight season, cornerback Gill Byrd was the leader of the pack with seven. Still, there is concern, mostly because the Chargers can't give Byrd enough help. Backup corners Elvis Patterson and Roy Bennett disappeared, and Sammy Seale, the starter at right cornerback, was inconsistent. Seale was burned in an opening-season disaster against the Raiders, then rebounded to play fairly well the rest of the season.

Free safety Vencie Glenn was, as always, steady, and strong safety Martin Bayless had his best of three seasons with the club. There is little behind those two, however.

The Chargers got robbed when they dealt punter Ralf Mojsiejenko to Washington for a seventh-round pick. It took the club eight months and three punters to correct the mistake. Lewis Colbert, who succeeded Mojsiejenko, lasted two games before he was dismissed; Hank Ilesic, imported from the CFL for the remainder of the season, wasn't protected under Plan B; and Buffalo's Kidd, who had no intention of leaving the Bills, did when Beathard waved a fat contract in his face.

Was it worth it? Beathard thinks so. Kidd, he said, will be the team's punter "the next five to six years."

And who will be the place-kicker? That hasn't been resolved. Veteran Chris Bahr was released after a 17-for-25 season that included the game-winning field goal against Denver, and the club rushed to replace him with — no one. That doesn't mean the Chargers didn't try. Mike Lansford, unprotected by the Los Angeles Rams, was high on their most wanted list, but Lansford opted to stay in Anaheim.

"I expect us to go right to the end in it. I'd be highly disappointed if we weren't playing right to the wire, and we weren't in playoff contention," Ortmayer said prior to the 1989 season.

Well, the Chargers didn't play right to the wire and weren't in playoff contention. Ortmayer, meanwhile, was not only disappointed, he was discharged. He signed on with the Raiders, his last stop before San Diego, as special teams coach and director of football operations.

Gone, Ortmayer was not forgotten. Soon after arriving, Beathard was told he would not have a fourth-round pick because Ortmayer dealt it away to the Raiders for running back Napoleon McCallum, who never made the club.

Last year's team highlight film talked about "The New Generation," but, really, that description is more suited to this year's club. Once again, it's out with the old, in with the new. But past changes off the field haven't delivered dramatic changes on the scoreboard. Let's wait and see before anyone talks about the Chargers becoming contenders again.❑

Leslie O'Neal leads the San Diego defense.
GEORGE ROSE / ALLSPORT

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
15	**Archer**, David	QB	6-2	208	7	Iowa State
44	**Bayless**, Martin	SS	6-2	212	7	Bowling Green
	Belli, Barry	K	5-10	167	1	Fresno State
82	**Bernstine**, Rod	HB	6-3	238	4	Texas A&M
58	**Brandon**, David	OLB	6-4	230	4	Memphis State
32	**Brooks**, Michael	FS	6-0	195	1	North Carolina State
35	**Butts**, Marion	RB	6-1	248	2	Florida State
22	**Byrd**, Gill	CB	5-11	198	8	San Jose State
46	**Caravello**, Joe	HB	6-3	270	4	Tulane
FA	**Carney**, John	K	5-11	160	2	Notre Dame
88	**Cox**, Arthur	TE	6-2	277	8	Texas Southern
87	**Early**, Quinn	WR	6-0	190	3	Iowa
51	**Figaro**, Cedric	ILB	6-2	250	3	Notre Dame
64	**Floyd**, Eric	T	6-5	300	1	Auburn
	Fuller, Joe	CB	5-11	180	1	Northern Iowa
25	**Glenn**, Vencie	FS	6-0	192	5	Indiana State
92	**Grossman**, Burt	DE	6-6	270	2	Pittsburgh
53	**Hall**, Courtney	C	6-2	269	2	Rice
FA	**Harmon**, Ronnie	RB	5-11	200	5	Iowa
	Hill, Nate	DE	6-4	275	2	Auburn
97	**Hinkle**, George	DE	6-5	269	3	Arizona
86	**Holland**, Jamie	WR	6-2	195	4	Ohio State
79	**Howard**, Joey	T	6-6	305	2	Tennessee
	Jackson, Tim	CB	5-11	192	1	Nebraska
FA	**Kidd**, John	P	6-3	208	7	Northwestern
24	**Lyles**, Lester	SS	6-3	200	6	Virginia
31	**McEwen**, Craig	HB	6-1	220	4	Utah
60	**McKnight**, Dennis	C-G	6-4	280	8	Drake (IA)
9	**McMahon**, Jim	QB	6-1	198	9	Brigham Young

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
FA	**Mickles**, Joe	RB	5-10	221	2	Mississippi
83	**Miller**, Anthony	WR	5-11	185	3	Tennessee
69	**Miller**, Les	NT	6-7	293	4	Ft. Hays Kansas State
20	**Nelson**, Darrin	RB	5-9	185	9	Stanford
91	**O'Neal**, Leslie	DE	6-4	259	4	Oklahoma State
85	**Parker**, Andy	TE	6-5	245	7	Utah
78	**Patten**, Joel	T	6-7	307	6	Duke
75	**Phillips**, Joe	NT	6-5	275	5	Southern Methodist
FA	**Plummer**, Bruce	DB	6-1	203	4	Mississippi State
50	**Plummer**, Gary	ILB	6-2	240	5	California
7	**Reveiz**, Fuad	K	5-11	216	4	Tennessee
65	**Richards**, David	G-T	6-5	310	3	UCLA
98	**Robinson**, Gerald	DE	6-3	262	3	Auburn
FA	**Rodenhauser**, Mark	C	6-5	263	3	Illinois State
	Rolling, Henry	ILB	6-2	225	3	Nevada-Reno
FA	**Sanders**, Thomas	RB	5-11	203	6	Texas A&M
30	**Seale**, Sam	CB	5-9	185	7	Western State (CO)
FA	**Simmonds**, Mike	G	6-4	285	2	Indiana State
54	**Smith**, Billy Ray	OLB	6-3	236	8	Arkansas
43	**Spencer**, Tim	RB	6-2	223	6	Ohio State
76	**Thompson**, Broderick	G-T	6-5	295	5	Kansas
11	**Tolliver**, Billy Joe	QB	6-1	218	2	Texas Tech
FA	**Toth**, Tom	G	6-5	282	5	Western Michigan
13	**Vlasic**, Mark	QB	6-3	206	3	Iowa
80	**Walker**, Wayne	WR	5-8	162	2	Texas Tech
67	**Williams**, Larry	G	6-5	290	4	Notre Dame
99	**Williams**, Lee	DE	6-6	271	7	Bethune-Cookman
59	**Woodard**, Ken	OLB	6-1	220	9	Tuskegee Institute
	Yarber, Eric	WR	5-9	152	3	Idaho

CHARGERS DRAFT

Round	Name, Position	Size	College	College Accomplishments
1	Junior **SEAU** *OLB*	6-3, 243	**Southern California**	Recorded 72 tackles (49 solos) with 19 sacks and 27 stops for 148 yards in losses . . . Credited with 34 quarterback pressures and second on the team with 12 pass deflections.
3	Jeff **MILLS** *OLB*	6-4, 227	**Nebraska**	All-Big 8 Conference . . . Finished third on the team with 58 tackles (33 solos), 3 sacks and 8 stops for 28 yards in losses . . . Credited with 10 quarterback pressures.
3	Leo **GOEAS** *OT*	6-4, 275	**Hawaii**	Named to the Media All-WAC first team and Coaches All-WAC second team . . . Had an outstanding performance at the NFL tryout camp in which he ran 4.9 in the 40.
3	Walter **WILSON** *WR*	5-10, 181	**East Carolina**	Holds the school's all-time records with 91 receptions for 1,670 yards and 16 TDs . . . Caught a career high 43 passes with 9 TDs for a school season record in 1989.
6	John **FRIESZ** *QB*	6-4, 209	**Idaho**	Extremely accurate passer . . . Holds 24 school, 18 conference and 5 NCAA Division I-AA records . . . Ranks fifth on the all-time NCAA passing list with 10,697 yards . . . His 801 completions of 1,350 attempts for 10,697 yards topped the Big Sky Conference all-time marks.
6	Frank **CORNISH** *C*	6-4, 281	**UCLA**	Tough drive blocker with great strength . . . Constantly dominates his man in one-on-one blocking situations . . . Drops back smoothly and is well coordinated in pass protection.
6	David **POOL** *CB*	5-9, 188	**Carson-Newman**	Made 38 tackles (27 solos), deflected 8 passes, picked off 5 more for 61 yards in returns and 1 TD and returned 13 punts for 71 yards in 1989.
6	Derrick **WALKER** *TE*	6-1, 244	**Michigan**	Came to Michigan as a linebacker, moving to tight end before the 1986 season . . . Consensus All-Big 10 Conference . . . Caught 12 passes for 110 yards (9.2 avg.) with 3 TDs.
7	Jeff **NOVAK** *OT*	6-5, 279	**Southwest Texas State**	Powerful, determined drive blocker with fine speed for a player his size . . . Recently timed at 5.15 in the 40 . . . Superb pass protector who moves well on the reverse.
7	Joe **STAYSNIAK** *OT*	6-5, 290	**Ohio State**	Started the last 46 games at quick tackle . . . Ideal quick tackle because of his speed and mobility . . . Excellent pass rusher . . . All-American second team selection.
7	Nathaniel **LEWIS** *FLK*	5-11, 197	**Oregon Tech**	Made 27 receptions for 434 yards (16.1 avg.) and 2 TDs in 1989.
7	Keith **COLLINS** *CB*	6-0, 183	**Appalachian State**	Recorded 37 tackles (28 solos) . . . Led the team with 13 pass deflections and 4 interceptions . . . Returned 6 kickoffs for 153 yards.
8	J. J. **FLANNIGAN** *TB*	5-11, 195	**Colorado**	Holds the Buffalo all-time mark by averaging 6.39 yards per carry . . . His 7.24 yards per attempt set a school season record . . . Tied a Buffalo season record by rushing for 18 TDs.
9	Chris **GOETZ** *OG*	6-2, 272	**Pittsburgh**	One of the most underrated drive blockers in the country . . . The strongest player on the Panthers . . . Bench presses over 425 pounds and squats over 660 . . . Has 5.14 speed in the 40.
10	Kenny **BERRY** *CB-FS*	6-2, 185	**Miami**	Despite a sprained ankle late in the season, finished with a career high 43 tackles . . . Recovered 1 fumble and broke up 7 passes . . . Also had 4 interceptions.
11	Tommie **STOWERS** *FB*	6-3, 225	**Missouri**	Punishing inside runner . . . Has 4.76 speed in the 40 . . . All-American honorable mention by The Poor Man's Guide to the NFL Draft . . . Led the team in rushing with 547 yards and 6 TDs on 142 carries in 1989.
12	Elliott **SEARCY** *WR*	5-8, 170	**Southern University**	Played last fall as graduate student . . . Led team with 30 receptions for 627 yards, a whopping 21.0 average per catch . . . Caught 4 TD passes . . . Returned 7 punts for 21 yards.

CHARGERS STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	CHARGERS	OPPONENT
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	267	295
Rushing	95	102
Passing	149	172
Penalty	23	21
3rd Down: Made/Atts.	81/223	81/227
4th Down: Made/Atts.	6/18	8/13
TOTAL NET YARDS	4910	4764
Avg. Per Game	306.9	297.8
Total Plays	986	1040
Avg. Per Play	5.0	4.6
NET YARDS RUSHING	1873	1813
Avg. Per Game	117.1	113.3
Total Rushes	432	479
NET YARDS PASSING	3037	2951
Avg. Per Game	189.8	184.4
Tackled/Yards Lost	39/254	48/360
Gross Yards	3291	3311
Attempts/Completions	515/270	513/283
Pct. of Completions	52.4	55.2
Had Intercepted	19	25
PUNTS/AVERAGE	84/39.5	79/38.6
NET PUNTING AVG.	32.4	32.9
PENALTIES/YARDS	122/906	92/726
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	24/17	21/13
TOUCHDOWNS	31	29
Rushing	13	13
Passing	15	15
Returns	3	1

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
CHARGERS	52	43	67	104	0	266
OPP. TOTAL	42	92	67	89	0	290

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 +	TOTAL
Bahr	0-0	6-6	6-9	4-6	1-4	17-25

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Butts	170	683	4.0	t50	9
Spencer	134	521	3.9	15	3
Nelson	36	197	5.5	28	0

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
A. Miller	75	1252	16.7	t69	10
Nelson	31	328	10.6	49	0
Holland	26	336	12.9	37	0
Walker	24	395	16.5	49	1
Cox	22	200	9.1	24	2

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
Byrd	7	38	5.4	22	0
Glenn	4	52	13.0	31	0
Seale	4	47	11.8	25	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG.	Blk.
Ilesic	76	3049	40.1	7	11	64	0
Colbert	8	266	33.3	0	0	46	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
McConkey	14	15	111	7.9	20	0
Brinson	11	0	112	10.2	52	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG.	TD
A. Miller	21	533	25.4	t91	1
Holland	29	510	17.6	34	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	LG.	Sacks/Lost	Rating
McMahon	318	176	2132	55.3	6.70	10	3.1	10	3.1	t69	28/167	73.5
Tolliver	185	89	1097	48.1	5.93	5	2.7	8	4.3	49	9/75	57.9

DRAFT ANALYSIS

❑ *continued from page134.*

Perkins. But he must know what he's doing in relation to Keith McCants, whom Perkins recruited to Alabama. McCants' stock dropped for a bunch of reasons ranging from a questionable knee to an even more questionable choice of agent. But he is a superior talent, and Perkins feels secure having him.

Then, Perkins really gambled with second pick Reggie Cobb of Tennessee. The running back was thrown off of the Volunteer squad when he failed three drug tests last season. He, too, is a troubled but talented player.

NFC WEST

SAN FRANCISCO — After failing to trade up for one of the real impact runners, the 49ers still got a valuable tool in 5'9", 170-pound RB Dexter Carter of Florida State. He'll replace the traded Terrence Flagler as Roger Craig's backup, will return kicks and is ultra dangerous as a deep threat out of the backfield, one of the few weapons the champs lack.

SF got more depth on the DL and in the secondary with DT Dennis Brown of Washington and DB Eric Davis of Jacksonville (Al) State, a real hitter.

"There is a certain sense of security with the veteran players and team leaders we have," Coach George Seifert said. "So the guys who beat them out are going to have to be pretty good."

Davis could be the nickel back in place of Tim McKyer, who was traded to Dallas for the pick that brought Brown.

LOS ANGELES — Bern Brostek was not the kind of pick to excite the folks in Hollywood. But he was the second-highest rated offensive lineman, and No. 1 was gone. So the Rams got a replacement for Doug Smith, albeit not for a few seasons.

Coach John Robinson also wants to move Jerry Gray to the corner full time, so DB Pat Terrell of Notre Dame was taken to play safety. Again, there won't be pressure to break him in immediately.

"I can't remember a draft that fit our needs better than this one," said Robinson, who also added veteran CB Bobby Humphery from the Jets. "We needed to add to our offensive line and our secondary, and we did that."

NEW ORLEANS — The Saints have a terrific set of linebackers who are overworked each year because they don't get enough support up front or from behind. Jim Finks set about correcting some of that by taking DE Renaldo Turnbull of West Virginia and CB Vince Buck of Central (Oh) State, an NAIA school. Turnbull is one smart cookie who also has the right physical attributes. Buck didn't play against top competition, but his workouts were excellent.

Two middle-rounders just might surprise — TE Charles Arbuckle of UCLA and QB Mike Buck of Maine. Both have injury histories, however.

ATLANTA — The steal of the draft was made by the Falcons — before the draft. When they sent the No. 1 overall pick to Indianapolis for Pro Bowl tackle Chris Hinton, budding star receiver Andre Rison and a 1991 first-rounder, they had it made.

But the Falcons did well otherwise, and new Coach Jerry Glanville has more to work with here than he did his first season in Houston. Scant RB Steve Broussard of Washington State will boost the outside running and the passing attack. LB Darion Conner of Jackson State is a monster hitter and DL Oliver Barnett of Kentucky could start. Atlanta had a great draft.

AFC EAST

BUFFALO — The Bills had a hole at cornerback created when Derrick Burroughs was forced to retire last year. It's filled now, by top pick James Williams of Fresno State, an absolute speedster who will complement Nate Odomes on the other side.

"I want to do what's best for the team," Williams said. "If that means having me as a starter, fine."

It does.

RB Carwell Gardner of Louisville should push the incumbent fullbacks and offer some speed. Tackle Glenn Parker of Arizona could find a spot on the line that coach Marv Levy would like to revamp.

"I understand that Joe Devlin is gone and that you need an offensive lineman and the team is on the brink of going very far in the NFL and winning a Super Bowl," said Parker, who has a skull and crossbones tattoo on his arm. "I'm very committed to helping."

MIAMI — It wasn't as big a coup as in 1989, when the Dolphins got both players they sought on the first round, Sammie Smith and Louis Oliver. It was good enough, however, for Don Shula to smile after the 1990 selections.

"We got 600 pounds of beef," offensive line coach John Sandusky said of Richmond Webb of Texas A&M and Keith Sims of Iowa State. Webb should move right in at tackle, while Simms is projected as a guard if he doesn't eat himself off the team.

Webb said he pictured Shula "as a pretty laid-back guy. It looks like he lays on the beach. He's got a pretty nice tan."

Obviously, Webb knows little about Shula.

Miami's most surprising choice was its fourth, QB Scott Mitchell of Utah. The left-handed junior can learn under Dan Marino but, barring injuries, won't play for years.

INDIANAPOLIS — You can go figure this team. We can't.

Jeff George is a strong-armed competitor from Illinois who probably was the best QB in the draft. But to give up so much for him, especially surrendering his best blocker and best receiver?

Anthony Johnson of Notre Dame was the second-round choice and serves as insurance if Eric Dickerson makes good on his retirement plans. WR Stacey Simmons of Florida could be a find on the fourth round, but he is no Rison.

"To win in the NFL today," GM Jimmy Irsay said, "You have to have that passing game. You have to have the franchise quarterback. We feel we've found him."

As for the overall draft, Coach Ron Meyer said, "The key thing is, do you have guys who can make the team and be starters and do you have guys who can give you depth? In general, it went well."

Sure Ron. And so did General Custer's trip to Little Big Horn.

NEW ENGLAND — Conducting his first draft as personnel di-

Jeff George is a strong-armed competitor from Illinois who probably was the best QB in the draft. But to give up so much for him, especially surrendering his best blocker and best receiver?

rector for the Patriots, Joe Mendes did a nice job. He traded the No. 3 overall to get the eighth and 10th picks, thus sacrificing Junior Seau or Cortez Kennedy to get a quality player at both of their positions. Those players were LB Chris Singleton of Arizona and DE Ray Agnew of N.C. State. Singleton probably will start, especially if New England continues to be plagued by injuries at linebacker. Agnew should be a regular by the end of the season.

The Pats waited until the third round for a quarterback and gambled that Tommy Hodson's early years at LSU were a true indication of his talent. Hodson slumped badly as a junior and senior.

Their other third-rounder, Greg McMurtry of Michigan, might play baseball. But the Red Sox own him, so the receiver might try a New England double.

NEW YORK — Steinberg wanted to upgrade the Jets' speed in the backfield, at wideout and at the corner. His first three selections — Blair Thomas of Penn State, Reggie Rembert of West Virginia and Tony Stargell of Tennessee State — do just that.

Picking Thomas was easy. It was having a shot at Rembert on the second round that most pleased the Jets, who see him as an Al Toon clone.

New York used Plan B to get blocking help and hopes its young DLs come around quickly. The No. 4 pick, quarterback Troy Taylor of California, won't be pushed quickly. But he might have a future with the Jets.

AFC CENTRAL

CLEVELAND — How worried are the Browns about Kevin Mack's staying power and Eric Metcalf's lack of bulk? Enough to have used their first choice, on the second round, for RB Leroy Hoard of Michigan.

"We felt we needed to upgrade our inside running," coach Bud Carson said. "We've felt that way for quite a while. With most little backs like Eric, you need someone to complement them."

DE Anthony Pleasant of Tennessee State could provide a youthful boost to an aging line, as might DE Rob Burnett of Syracuse.

"One thing we've added is physical toughness," said draft coordinator Ernie Accorsi. "I think we have some people who have some nastiness, some power."

HOUSTON — Lamar Lathon, a linebacker from the Houston Cougars, deserved to be a No. 1 selection. He has overcome injuries from an auto accident and major knee surgery. Now, he wants to help his sister beat a crack addiction.

New Coach Jack Pardee, a former star linebacker in the NFL who coached Lathon at the university, had said Lathon would be the best defensive player in the country last year.

"Unfortunately, he had the injuries, but we knew what kind of player he could be."

The Oilers badly are in need of an inside LB. Lathon fits in perfectly.

Two DLs, Jeff Alm of Notre Dame and Willis Peguese of Miami will help the interior defense. Watch for speedy WR Tony Jones of Texas (sixth round) in the run-and-shoot.

PITTSBURGH — The Steelers traded down four spots in the first round, which enabled Dallas to get Emmitt Smith. Pittsburgh then got who it desired, TE Eric Green of Liberty. He is a hunk, but can he handle the higher level of competition? He didn't come close to facing it in college.

Two linemen from LSU — Kenny Davidson and Karl Dunbar — could make an impact on a unit that has not prospered from recent drafts. Third-rounder Neil O'Donnell of Maryland won't push Bubby Brister at quarterback for a while, but the Steelers were very impressed with his workouts.

CINCINNATI — The Bengals might be two defenders away from a return to the Super Bowl. One, a linebacker with speed and pass-coverage skills, came in the first round when they took James Francis of Baylor. He reminds scouts of Green Bay's Tim Harris and is just as good at blocking kicks and passes.

Concerned with Ickey Woods' knee and James Brooks' age, the Bengals once again drafted a running back high. In 1989, it was UCLA's Eric Ball, who showed little as a rookie. This time, they got a bargain in Harold Green of South Carolina.

Another LB who makes big plays and should help is Bernard Clark of Miami.

AFC WEST

DENVER — The Broncos made out well before the proceedings began last April. Their first choice was spent in the '89 supplemental draft, which yielded Bobby Humphrey. All Humphrey did was rush for 1,000 yards, give the offense diversification, and send the Broncos to their third AFC title in four seasons.

None of their picks this year were as inspiring, though Jeroy Robinson has a chance to be a starter at linebacker. The best name in the draft: Le-Lo Lang of Washington, a DB taken on the fifth round.

KANSAS CITY — The Chiefs need offensive help, but they feel a 4-3 defense with Percy Snow at middle linebacker can't miss.

"He's a big, physical inside linebacker who has got a feistiness about him," said coach Marty Schottenheimer. "He's a tough, aggressive player who fits the mold we're looking for."

So does Tim Grunhard, a 6'3", 291-pound guard/center from Notre Dame. Eventually, he will replace future Hall of Fame center Mike Webster.

WR Fred Jones of Grambling will boost a sinking receiving corps.

LOS ANGELES — The Raiders really reached on the first round, going for Anthony Smith of Arizona. Was the DE worth the No. 11 overall? Generally, he was rated a second-rounder.

Aaron Wallace of Texas A&M was considered a potential Top 15 pick before suffering through an injury-plagued senior season. Wallace, if healthy, will step right in at linebacker, the weakest part of the defense.

LA's most interesting choice came on the last round — Major Harris of West Virginia. Look for Harris to hone his skills for a while in Canada, then attempt a shot at the NFL.

SEATTLE — The Seahawks' defensive line is fading quickly. Only Rufus Porter, a sack specialist, has much to offer. So, the Hawks grabbed at the chance to trade up for Cortez Kennedy.

"The quality was so great that we were willing to pay that price for him," coach Chuck Knox said. "We didn't reach at all."

Kennedy will be the best DT the team has ever had and, combined with the next two picks — LB Terry Wooden of Syracuse and DB Robert Blackmon of Baylor — immediately upgrades the defense.

"Those are three pretty good players right down the middle of our defense," GM Tom Flores said.

But what about the offensive line?

SAN DIEGO — It was said Bobby Beathard wouldn't know what to do with a No. 5 overall pick. Ha! He did the right thing, taking LB Junior Seau of USC. The Chargers, who already had a nice D, could be overpowering if Seau develops quickly.

LB Jeff Mills of Nebraska will have to play inside. Center Frank Cornish of UCLA has a chance with this team. So does the sixth-rounder, QB John Friesz of Idaho.

"We might have ended up with more players than anybody in the draft," said Beathard, conducting his first grab bag for the Chargers after running the Redskins. "We're happy with the players we got. At the same time, we can't help but be frustrated at the players we missed (most notably Sims, who went to the Dolphins). I guess you get greedy because you want all of them."❑

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FREE AGENTS

ATLANTA FALCONS

Signed [5]: (T) Lee, (C) Ruether, (G) Utt, (RB) T. Johnson, (DE) Cline

Lost [6]: (TE) Heller, (DB) Cooper, (C) Radloff, (P) Donnelly, (DB) Zackery, (G) Robison

BUFFALO BILLS

Signed [2]: (P) Tuten, (RB) Smith

Lost [5]: (P) Kidd, (WR) F. Johnson, (LB) Harvey, (RB) Harmon, (DL) Smerlas

CHICAGO BEARS

Signed [1]: (G) Becker

Lost [7]: (DB) Streeter, (WR) McKinnon, (RB) Sanders, (T) Zawatson, (DB) Lynch, (DT) Shannon, (DE) Woods

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Signed [2]: (WR) Barber, (RB) Palmer

Lost [3]: (G) Montoya, (T) Woods, (WR) Hillary

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Signed [6]: (C) Baab, (DE) Weston, (DB) Clayborn, (G) Tamm, (LB) McGrew, (LB) Rose

Lost [5]: (RB) Jones, (TE) Middleton, (WR) McNeil, (DB) Dixon, (DB) Lyons

DALLAS COWBOYS

Signed [16]: (WR) Harris, (RB) Agee, (G) G. Johnson, (LB) W. Johnson, (RB) Jones, (DB) Washington, (WR) Williams, (LB) Cooks, (DB) Gibson, (TE) Novacek, (G) Slaton, (LB) Smith, (WR) McKinnon, (DE) Robinson, (DE) Spears, (T) Cheek

Lost [4]: (C) White, (WR) Ford, (WR) Burbage, (RB) Palmer

DENVER BRONCOS

Signed [9]: (DE) Mraz, (TE) Verhulst, (RB) Hampton, (DB) Smith, (WR) J. Johnson, (DE) White, (LB) Allert, (TE) Little, (LB) Stephens

Lost [4]: (C) Ruether, (DB) Thornton, (LB) Klosterman, (TE) Kelly

DETROIT LIONS

Signed [8]: (WR) Matthews, (C) Wilson, (DE) Duckens, (RB) Wilkerson, (DB) Cocroft, (DB) Welch, (WR) Greer, (DB) Judson

Lost [9]: (WR) Williams, (G) Milinichik, (RB) Paige, (C) Matich, (WR) Stanley, (DB) Holmes, (DE) Cribbs, (DB) Griffin, (T) Gambol

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Signed [13]: (TE) Harris, (TE) Dee, (P) Hatcher, (RB) Frazier, (WR) F. Johnson, (DB) Holmes, (LB) Chubb, (C) Yarno, (DE) Cribbs, (DE) Miller, (LB) Clark, (LB) M.L. Johnson, (WR) Weathers

Lost [2]: (WR) Matthews, (DB) Stills

HOUSTON OILERS

Signed [8]: (DB) Arnold, (DB) Knight, (WR) McNeil, (WR) Harry, (WR) Ford, (DE) E. Johnson, (DB) Kinard, (G) Robison

Lost [7]: (TE) Mrosko, (DB) Eaton, (TE) Verhulst, (DB) Donaldson, (C) Yarno, (RB) T. Johnson, (DE) Spears

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Signed [0]:

Lost [8]: (DB) Plummer, (TE) Brandes, (TE) Boyer, (G) Utt, (LB) Odom, (DE) E. Johnson, (DB) Washington, (DB) Parker

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Signed [12]: (DT) Shorts, (LB) Ward, (DB) Donaldson, (C) Winters, (DB) Griffin, (TE) Jones, (C) Morris, (K) Nittmo, (WR) Ware, (T) Woods, (RB) Harmon, (DB) Washington

Lost [4]: (RB) Agee, (LB) Harvey, (G) Adickes, (WR) Weathers

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Signed [8]: (DB) Streeter, (G) Montoya, (LB) Burton, (LB) Campbell, (WR) R. Brown, (LB) Klosterman, (DB) Patterson, (T) Fitzpatrick

Lost [4]: (DE) Mraz, (C) Lewis, (WR) Ware, (RB) Edmonds

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Signed [3]: (G) Milinichik, (P) Ilesic, (RB) Warner

Lost [6]: (DB) Washington, (G) Slaton, (P) Hatcher, (G) Becker, (WR) R. Brown, (DE) Miller

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Signed [9]: (RB) Paige, (DE) Wilson, (LB) Odom, (LB) Harvey, (DB) Elder, (DB) Moore, (RB) Higgs, (DB) Glenn, (LB) Reichenbach

Lost [11]: (T) Lee, (LB) Ahrens, (G) G. Johnson, (RB) Hampton, (DB) Judson, (DB) Gibson, (RB) T. Brown, (DE) Cline, (T) Cheek, (LB) Clark, (G) Toth

FREE AGENTS

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Signed [10]: (T) Marrone, (T) Wolfley, (DB) Lyons, (DB) Stills, (WR) Schillinger, (C) Schreiber, (WR) Newsome, (WR) Burbage, (WR) Hillary, (DE) Knight

Lost [3]: (C) Rodenhauser, (DB) Edwards, (DB) Curtis

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Signed [11]: (RB) Adams, (TE) Mowatt, (LB) Harvey, (LB) Jarostchuk, (G) D. Johnson, (C) White, (DB) Gibson, (T) Gambol, (RB) Morris, (DE) Gannon, (DB) Zackery

Lost [17]: (DT) McNeil, (T) Rehder, (WR) Antrum, (DT) Shorts, (LB) Ward, (C) Wilson, (C) Baab, (LB) Cooks, (DB) Feggins, (DB) Rice, (DB) Clayborn, (LB) Chubb, (LB) McGrew, (DB) Holmes, (C) Morris, (DE) Hodge, (RB) Egu

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Signed [2]: (LB) Simien, (DE) Woods

Lost [10]: (DB) Waymer, (WR) Harris, (LB) W. Johnson, (T) Marrone, (DB) Gibson, (RB) Frazier, (LB) Kohlbrand, (LB) Walker, (DE) Geathers, (NT) Swopes

NEW YORK GIANTS

Signed [3]: (DB) Thornton, (DB) Feggins, (TE) Mrosko

Lost [10]: (DE) Duckens, (RB) Adams, (TE) Mowatt, (G) D. Johnson, (C) Winters, (DE) White, (DB) Cox, (DB) Kinard, (K) Nittmo, (QB) Rutledge

NEW YORK JETS

Signed [12]: (DT) McNeil, (T) Rehder, (T) Miller, (WR) Antrum, (DB) Curtis, (TE) Boyer, (C) Matich, (T) Zawatson, (LB) Kohlbrand, (TE) Kelly, (DB) Parker, (RB) Egu

Lost [9]: (DB) Knight, (TE) Werner, (C) Schreiber, (TE) Griggs, (LB) Bob, (LB) Rose, (LB) McArthur, (DB) Moore, (DB) Glenn

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Signed [2]: (TE) Werner, (TE) Le Bel

Lost [6]: (DB) Everett, (P) Tuten, (LB) Allert, (RB) Higgs, (TE) Little, (LB) Reichenbach

PHOENIX CARDINALS

Signed [4]: (DB) Eaton, (C) Lewis, (LB) Walker, (DB) Lynch

Lost [8]: (TE) Novacek, (LB) Burton, (WR) Barber, (DE) Knight, (WR) Schillinger, (T) Dill, (DE) Wilson, (LB) Jarostchuk

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Signed [2]: (TE) Griggs, (DB) Holmes

Lost [7]: (LB) Smith, (DB) Arnold, (WR) Newsome, (WR) J. Johnson, (LB) Simien, (RB) Wilkerson, (T) Wolfley

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Signed [9]: (DB) Plummer, (C) Rodenhauser, (RB) Mickles, (RB) Sanders, (P) Kidd, (RB) Harmon, (G) Toth, (G) Simmonds, (K) Carney

Lost [7]: (T) Miller, (LB) Campbell, (P) Ilesic, (DB) E. Smith, (DB) Patterson, (DE) Gannon, (T) Fitzpatrick

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Signed [6]: (DB) Waymer, (DB) Cox, (DB) Dixon, (DT) Shannon, (C) Radloff, (DL) Smerlas

Lost [1]: (WR) Greer

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Signed [4]: (RB) Edmonds, (P) Donnelly, (LB) Ahrens, (TE) Heller

Lost [7]: (TE) Dee, (LB) M.L. Johnson, (TE) Jones, (TE) Le Bel, (RB) Harmon, (RB) Warner, (LB) Stephens

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Signed [5]: (DB) Everett, (DB) Cooper, (T) Dill, (DB) Rice, (LB) Bob

Lost [8]: (DE) Weston, (RB) Wilder, (TE) Harris, (DB) Cocroft, (DB) Elder, (RB) Smith, (G) Simmonds, (K) Carney

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Signed [12]: (RB) Wilder, (DB) Edwards, (TE) Brandes, (WR) Stanley, (RB) Brown, (G) Adickes, (DE) Geathers, (NT) Swoopes, (DE) Hodge, (QB) Rutledge, (LB) McArthur, (TE) Middleton

Lost [6]: (RB) Mickles, (DE) Robinson, (WR) Harry, (G) Tamm, (DB) Welch, (RB) Morris

1990 NFC SCHEDULES

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 9 HOUSTON 4:00
Sept. 16 at Detroit 1:00
Sept. 23 at San Francisco 1:00
Oct. 7 NEW ORLEANS 1:00
Oct. 14 SAN FRANCISCO 1:00
Oct. 21 at LA Rams 1:00
Oct. 28 CINCINNATI 8:00
Nov. 4 at Pittsburgh 1:00
Nov. 11 at Chicago 12:00
Nov. 18 PHILADELPHIA 1:00
Nov. 25 at New Orleans 12:00
Dec. 2 at Tampa Bay 1:00
Dec. 9 PHOENIX 1:00
Dec. 16 at Cleveland 1:00
Dec. 23 LA RAMS 1:00
Dec. 30 DALLAS 1:00

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 9 SEATTLE 12:00
Sept. 16 at Green Bay 12:00
Sept. 23 MINNESOTA 12:00
Sept. 30 at LA Raiders 1:00
Oct. 7 GREEN BAY 3:00
Oct. 14 LA RAMS 6:30
Oct. 28 at Phoenix 2:00
Nov. 4 at Tampa Bay 4:00
Nov. 11 ATLANTA 12:00
Nov. 18 at Denver 2:00
Nov. 25 at Minnesota 12:00
Dec. 2 DETROIT 12:00
Dec. 9 at Washington 4:00
Dec. 16 at Detroit 8:00
Dec. 23 TAMPA BAY 12:00
Dec. 29 KANSAS CITY 11:30

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 9 SAN DIEGO 3:00
Sept. 16 NEW YORK GIANTS 3:00
Sept. 23 at Washington 1:00
Sept. 30 at New York Giants 1:00
Oct. 7 TAMPA BAY 12:00
Oct. 14 at Phoenix 1:00
Oct. 21 at Tampa Bay 1:00
Oct. 28 PHILADELPHIA 12:00
Nov. 4 at New York Jets 1:00
Nov. 11 SAN FRANCISCO 7:00
Nov. 18 at LA Rams 1:00
Nov. 22 WASHINGTON 3:00
Dec. 2 NEW ORLEANS 3:00
Dec. 16 PHOENIX 12:00
Dec. 23 at Philadelphia 1:00
Dec. 30 at Atlanta 1:00

DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 9 TAMPA BAY 1:00
Sept. 16 ATLANTA 1:00
Sept. 23 at Tampa Bay 8:00
Sept. 30 GREEN BAY 1:00
Oct. 7 at Minnesota 12:00
Oct. 14 at Kansas City 12:00
Oct. 28 at New Orleans 12:00
Nov. 4 WASHINGTON 1:00
Nov. 11 MINNESOTA 1:00
Nov. 18 at New York Giants 1:00
Nov. 22 DENVER 12:30
Dec. 2 at Chicago 12:00
Dec. 10 LA RAIDERS 9:00
Dec. 16 CHICAGO 8:00
Dec. 22 at Green Bay 11:30
Dec. 30 at Seattle 1:00

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 9 LA RAMS 12:00
Sept. 16 CHICAGO 12:00
Sept. 23 KANSAS CITY 12:00
Sept. 30 at Detroit 1:00
Oct. 7 at Chicago 3:00
Oct. 14 at Tampa Bay 1:00
Oct. 28 MINNESOTA at Milwaukee 12:00
Nov. 4 SAN FRANCISCO 12:00
Nov. 11 at LA Raiders 1:00
Nov. 18 at Phoenix 2:00
Nov. 25 TAMPA BAY at Milwaukee 12:00
Dec. 2 at Minnesota 7:00
Dec. 9 SEATTLE at Milwaukee 12:00
Dec. 16 at Philadelphia 4:00
Dec. 22 DETROIT 11:30
DEc. 30 at Denver 2:00

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Sept. 9 at Green Bay 12:00
Sept. 16 at Tampa Bay 1:00
Sept. 23 PHILADELPHIA 1:00
Oct. 7 CINCINNATI 1:00
Oct. 14 at Chicago 6:30
Oct. 21 ATLANTA 1:00
Oct. 29 at Pittsburgh 9:00
Nov. 4 HOUSTON 1:00
Nov. 11 NEW YORK GIANTS 1:00
Nov. 18 DALLAS 1:00
Nov. 25 at San Francisco 1:00
Dec. 2 at Cleveland 1:00
Dec. 9 NEW ORLEANS 1:00
Dec. 17 SAN FRANCISCO 6:00
Dec. 23 at Atlanta 1:00
Dec. 31 at New Orleans 7:00

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 9 at Kansas City 12:00
Sept. 16 NEW ORLEANS 3:00
Sept. 23 at Chicago 12:00
Sept. 30 TAMPA BAY 12:00
Oct. 7 DETROIT 12:00
Oct. 15 at Philadelphia 9:00
Oct. 28 Green Bay at Milwaukee 12:00
Nov. 4 DENVER 7:00
Nov. 11 at Detroit 1:00
Nov. 18 at Seattle 1:00
Nov. 25 CHICAGO 12:00
Dec. 2 GREEN BAY 7:00
Dec. 9 at New York Giants 1:00
Dec. 16 at Tampa Bay 1:00
Dec. 22 LA RAIDERS 3:00
Dec. 30 SAN FRANCISCO 12:00

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 10 SAN FRANCISCO 8:00
Sept. 16 at Minnesota 3:00
Sept. 23 PHOENIX 12:00
Oct. 7 at Atlanta 1:00
Oct. 14 CLEVELAND 12:00
Oct. 21 at Houston 12:00
Oct. 28 DETROIT 12:00
Nov. 4 at Cincinnati 1:00
Nov. 11 TAMPA BAY 12:00
Nov. 18 at Washington 1:00
Nov. 25 ATLANTA 12:00
Dec. 2 at Dallas 3:00
Dec. 9 at LA Rams 1:00
Dec. 16 PITTSBURGH 12:00
Dec. 23 at San Francisco 1:00
Dec. 31 LA RAMS 7:00

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 9 PHILADELPHIA 8:00
Sept. 16 at Dallas 3:00
Sept. 23 MIAMI 1:00
Sept. 30 DALLAS 1:00
Oct. 14 at Washington 4:00
Oct. 21 PHOENIX 4:00
Oct. 28 WASHINGTON 4:00
Nov. 5 at Indianapolis 9:00
Nov. 11 at LA Rams 1:00
Nov. 18 DETROIT 1:00
Nov. 25 at Philadelphia 1:00
Dec. 3 at San Francisco 6:00
Dec. 9 MINNESOTA 1:00
Dec. 15 BUFFALO 12:30
Dec. 23 at Phoenix 2:00
Dec. 30 at New England 1:00

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 9 at New York Giants 8:00
Sept. 16 PHOENIX 1:00
Sept. 23 at LA Rams 1:00
Sept. 30 INDIANAPOLIS 1:00
Oct. 15 MINNESOTA 9:00
Oct. 21 at Washington 1:00
Oct. 28 at Dallas 12:00
Nov. 4 NEW ENGLAND 1:00
Nov. 12 WASHINGTON 9:00
Nov. 18 at Atlanta 1:00
Nov. 25 NEW YORK GIANTS 1:00
Dec. 2 at Buffalo 1:00
Dec. 9 at Miami 8:00
Dec. 16 GREEN BAY 4:00
Dec. 23 DALLAS 1:00
Dec. 29 at Phoenix 2:00

PHOENIX CARDINALS

Sept. 9 at Washington 1:00
Sept. 16 at Philadelphia 1:00
Sept. 23 at New Orleans 12:00
Sept. 30 WASHINGTON 5:00
Oct. 14 DALLAS 1:00
Oct. 21 at New York Giants 4:00
Oct. 28 CHICAGO 2:00
Nov. 4 at Miami 1:00
Nov. 11 at Buffalo 1:00
Nov. 18 GREEN BAY 2:00
Nov. 25 NEW ENGLAND 2:00
Dec. 2 INDIANAPOLIS 2:00
Dec. 9 at Atlanta 1:00
Dec. 16 at Dallas 12:00
Dec. 23 NEW YORK GIANTS 2:00
Dec. 29 PHILADELPHIA 2:00

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept. 10 at New Orleans 8:00
Sept. 16 WASHINGTON 1:00
Sept. 23 ATLANTA 1:00
Oct. 7 at Houston 12:00
Oct. 14 at Atlanta 1:00
Oct. 21 PITTSBURGH 1:00
Oct. 28 CLEVELAND 1:00
Nov. 4 at Green Bay 12:00
Nov. 11 at Dallas 7:00
Nov. 18 TAMPA BAY 1:00
Nov. 25 LA RAMS 1:00
Dec. 3 NEW YORK GIANTS 6:00
Dec. 9 at Cincinnati 1:00
Dec. 17 at LA Rams 6:00
Dec. 23 NEW ORLEANS 1:00
Dec. 30 at Minnesota 12:00

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sept. 9 at Detroit 1:00
Sept. 16 LA RAMS 1:00
Sept. 23 DETROIT 8:00
Sept. 30 at Minnesota 12:00
Oct. 7 at Dallas 12:00
Oct. 14 GREEN BAY 1:00
Oct. 21 DALLAS 1:00
Oct. 28 at San Diego 1:00
Nov. 4 CHICAGO 4:00
Nov. 11 at New Orleans 12:00
Nov. 18 at San Francisco 1:00
Nov. 25 Green Bay at Milwaukee 12:00
Dec. 2 ATLANTA 1:00
Dec. 16 MINNESOTA 1:00
Dec. 23 at Chicago 12:00
Dec. 30 NEW YORK JETS 4:00

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept. 9 PHOENIX 1:00
Sept. 16 at San Francisco 1:00
Sept. 23 DALLAS 1:00
Sept. 30 at Phoenix 5:00
Oct. 14 NEW YORK GIANTS 4:00
Oct. 21 PHILADELPHIA 1:00
Oct. 28 at New York Giants 4:00
Nov. 4 at Detroit 1:00
Nov. 12 at Philadelphia 9:00
Nov. 18 NEW ORLEANS 1:00
Nov. 22 at Dallas 3:00
Dec. 2 MIAMI 1:00
Dec. 9 CHICAGO 4:00
Dec. 15 at New England 4:00
Dec. 22 at Indianapolis 8:00
Dec. 30 BUFFALO 1:00

SURE® WORKS ON DEMAND TO HELP KEEP YOU DRY.

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THREE PLAYERS THAT REALLY PERFORM UNDER PRESSURE.

Sure® thrives on pressure. It actually works harder when you need it more to help keep you dry. You can count on Sure in the clutch.

MORE PROTECTION ON DEMAND, SO YOU'RE MORE SURE.

1990 AFC SCHEDULES

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 9 INDIANAPOLIS 4:00
Sept. 16 at Miami 1:00
Sept. 24 at New York Jets 9:00
Sept. 30 DENVER 1:00
Oct. 7 LA RAIDERS 7:30
Oct. 21 NEW YORK JETS 1:00
Oct. 28 at New England 1:00
Nov. 4 at Cleveland 1:00
Nov. 11 PHOENIX 1:00
Nov. 18 NEW ENGLAND 1:00
Nov. 26 at Houston 8:00
Dec. 2 PHILADELPHIA 1:00
Dec. 9 at Indianapolis 1:00
Dec. 15 at New York Giants 12:30
Dec. 23 MIAMI 1:00
Dec. 30 at Washington 1:00

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 9 NEW YORK JETS 4:00
Sept. 16 at San Diego 1:00
Sept. 23 NEW ENGLAND 1:00
Oct. 1 at Seattle 6:00
Oct. 7 at LA Rams 1:00
Oct. 14 HOUSTON 1:00
Oct. 22 at Cleveland 9:00
Oct. 28 at Atlanta 8:00
Nov. 4 NEW ORLEANS 1:00
Nov. 18 PITTSBURGH 8:00
Nov. 25 INDIANAPOLIS 1:00
Dec. 2 at Pittsburgh 1:00
Dec. 9 SAN FRANCISCO 1:00
Dec. 16 at LA Raiders 1:00
Dec. 23 at Houston 12:00
Dec. 30 CLEVELAND 1:00

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept. 9 PITTSBURGH 4:00
Sept. 16 at New York Jets 1:00
Sept. 23 SAN DIEGO 1:00
Sept. 30 at Kansas City 3:00
Oct. 8 at Denver 7:00
Oct. 14 at New Orleans 12:00
Oct. 22 CINCINNATI 9:00
Oct. 28 at San Francisco 1:00
Nov. 4 BUFFALO 1:00
Nov. 18 HOUSTON 1:00
Nov. 25 MIAMI 1:00
Dec. 2 LA RAMS 1:00
Dec. 9 at Houston 12:00
Dec. 16 ATLANTA 1:00
Dec. 23 at Pittsburgh 1:00
Dec. 30 at Cincinnati 1:00

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 9 at LA Raiders 1:00
Sept. 17 KANSAS CITY 7:00
Sept. 23 SEATTLE 2:00
Sept. 30 at Buffalo 1:00
Oct. 8 CLEVELAND 7:00
Oct. 14 PITTSBURGH 2:00
Oct. 21 at Indianapolis 12:00
Nov. 4 at Minnesota 7:00
Nov. 11 at San Diego 1:00
Nov. 18 CHICAGO 2:00
Nov. 22 at Detroit 12:30
Dec. 2 LA RAIDERS 2:00
Dec. 9 at Kansas City 3:00
Dec. 16 SAN DIEGO 2:00
Dec. 23 at Seattle 5:00
Dec. 30 GREEN BAY 2:00

HOUSTON OILERS

Sept. 9 at Atlanta 4:00
Sept. 16 at Pittsburgh 8:00
Sept. 23 INDIANAPOLIS 12:00
Sept. 30 at San Diego 1:00
Oct. 7 SAN FRANCISCO 12:00
Oct. 14 at Cincinnati 1:00
Oct. 21 NEW ORLEANS 12:00
Oct. 28 NEW YORK JETS 12:00
Nov. 4 at LA Rams 1:00
Nov. 18 at Cleveland 1:00
Nov. 26 BUFFALO 8:00
Dec. 2 at Seattle 1:00
Dec. 9 CLEVELAND 12:00
Dec. 16 at Kansas City 12:00
Dec. 23 CINCINNATI 12:00
Dec. 30 PITTSBURGH 7:00

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Sept. 9 at Buffalo 4:00
Sept. 16 NEW ENGLAND 12:00
Sept. 23 at Houston 12:00
Sept. 30 at Philadelphia 1:00
Oct. 7 KANSAS CITY 12:00
Oct. 21 DENVER 12:00
Oct. 28 MIAMI 1:00
Nov. 5 NEW YORK GIANTS 9:00
Nov. 11 at New England 1:00
Nov. 18 NEW YORK JETS 4:00
Nov. 25 at Cincinnati 1:00
Dec. 2 at Phoenix 2:00
Dec. 9 BUFFALO 1:00
Dec. 16 at New York Jets 1:00
Dec. 22 WASHINGTON 8:00
Dec. 30 at Miami 1:00

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 9 MINNESOTA 12:00
Sept. 17 at Denver 7:00
Sept. 23 at Green Bay 12:00
Sept. 30 CLEVELAND 3:00
Oct. 7 at Indianapolis 12:00
Oct. 14 DETROIT 12:00
Oct. 21 at Seattle 1:00
Nov. 4 LA RAIDERS 12:00
Nov. 11 SEATTLE 12:00
Nov. 18 SAN DIEGO 12:00
Nov. 25 at LA Raiders 1:00
Dec. 2 at New England 1:00
Dec. 9 DENVER 3:00
Dec. 16 HOUSTON 12:00
Dec. 23 at San Diego 1:00
Dec. 29 at Chicago 11:30

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Sept. 9 DENVER 1:00
Sept. 16 at Seattle 1:00
Sept. 23 PITTSBURGH 1:00
Sept. 30 CHICAGO 1:00
Oct. 7 at Buffalo 7:30
Oct. 14 SEATTLE 1:00
Oct. 21 at San Diego 1:00
Nov. 4 at Kansas City 12:00
Nov. 11 GREEN BAY 1:00
Nov. 19 at Miami 9:00
Nov. 25 KANSAS CITY 1:00
Dec. 2 at Denver 2:00
Dec. 10 at Detroit 9:00
Dec. 16 CINCINNATI 1:00
Dec. 22 at Minnesota 3:00
Dec. 30 SAN DIEGO 1:00

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 9 at New England 4:00
Sept. 16 BUFFALO 1:00
Sept. 23 at New York Giants 1:00
Sept. 30 at Pittsburgh 1:00
Oct. 7 NEW YORK JETS 1:00
Oct. 18 NEW ENGLAND 8:00
Oct. 28 at Indianapolis 1:00
Nov. 4 PHOENIX 1:00
Nov. 11 at New York Jets 1:00
Nov. 19 LA RAIDERS 9:00
Nov. 25 at Cleveland 1:00
Dec. 2 at Washington 1:00
Dec. 9 PHILADELPHIA 8:00
Dec. 16 SEATTLE 1:00
Dec. 23 at Buffalo 1:00
Dec. 30 INDIANAPOLIS 1:00

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 9 MIAMI 4:00
Sept. 16 at Indianapolis 12:00
Sept. 23 at Cincinnati 1:00
Sept. 30 NEW YORK JETS 4:00
Oct. 7 SEATTLE 1:00
Oct. 18 at Miami 8:00
Oct. 28 BUFFALO 1:00
Nov. 4 at Philadelphia 1:00
Nov. 11 INDIANAPOLIS 1:00
Nov. 18 at Buffalo 1:00
Nov. 25 at Phoenix 2:00
Dec. 2 KANSAS CITY 1:00
Dec. 9 at Pittsburgh 1:00
Dec. 15 WASHINGTON 4:00
Dec. 23 at New York Jets 1:00
Dec. 30 NEW YORK GIANTS 1:00

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 9 at Cincinnati 4:00
Sept. 16 CLEVELAND 1:00
Sept. 24 BUFFALO 9:00
Sept. 30 at New England 4:00
Oct. 7 at Miami 1:00
Oct. 14 SAN DIEGO 1:00
Oct. 21 at Buffalo 1:00
Oct. 28 at Houston 12:00
Nov. 4 DALLAS 1:00
Nov. 11 MIAMI 1:00
Nov. 18 at Indianapolis 4:00
Nov. 25 PITTSBURGH 4:00
Dec. 2 at San Diego 1:00
Dec. 16 INDIANAPOLIS 1:00
Dec. 23 NEW ENGLAND 1:00
Dec. 30 at Tampa Bay 4:00

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 9 at Cleveland 4:00
Sept. 16 HOUSTON 8:00
Sept. 23 at LA Raiders 1:00
Sept. 30 MIAMI 1:00
Oct. 7 SAN DIEGO 1:00
Oct. 14 at Denver 2:00
Oct. 21 at San Francisco 1:00
Oct. 29 LA RAMS 9:00
Nov. 4 ATLANTA 1:00
Nov. 18 at Cincinnati 8:00
Nov. 25 at New York Jets 4:00
Dec. 2 CINCINNATI 1:00
Dec. 9 NEW ENGLAND 1:00
Dec. 16 at New Orleans 12:00
Dec. 23 CLEVELAND 1:00
Dec. 30 at Houston 7:00

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 9 at Dallas 3:00
Sept. 16 CINCINNATI 1:00
Sept. 23 at Cleveland 1:00
Sept. 30 HOUSTON 1:00
Oct. 7 at Pittsburgh 1:00
Oct. 14 at New York Jets 1:00
Oct. 21 LA RAIDERS 1:00
Oct. 28 TAMPA BAY 1:00
Nov. 4 at Seattle 1:00
Nov. 11 DENVER 1:00
Nov. 18 at Kansas City 12:00
Nov. 25 SEATTLE 5:00
Dec. 2 NEW YORK JETS 1:00
Dec. 16 at Denver 2:00
Dec. 23 KANSAS CITY 1:00
Dec. 30 at LA Raiders 1:00

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept. 9 at Chicago 12:00
Sept. 16 LA RAIDERS 1:00
Sept. 23 at Denver 2:00
Oct. 1 CINCINNATI 6:00
Oct. 7 at New England 1:00
Oct. 14 at LA Raiders 1:00
Oct. 21 KANSAS CITY 1:00
Nov. 4 SAN DIEGO 1:00
Nov. 11 at Kansas City 12:00
Nov. 18 MINNESOTA 1:00
Nov. 25 at San Diego 5:00
Dec. 2 HOUSTON 1:00
Dec. 9 Green Bay at Milwaukee 12:00
Dec. 16 at Miami 1:00
Dec. 23 DENVER 5:00
Dec. 30 DETROIT 1:00

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THE PREVENT DEFENSE.

When the pressure's on, there's a strategy you can depend on to help keep you dry. The Sure® Strategy: Lift the top. Twist the bottom. Glide it on. Sure automatically gives you more protection when you need it. So check out our defensive line.

MORE PROTECTION ON DEMAND, SO YOU'RE MORE SURE.

1989 NFC RESULTS

ATLANTA FALCONS

Atlanta 21,	LA Rams 31	H	38,708
Atlanta 27,	Dallas 21	H	55,285
Atlanta 9,	Indianapolis 13	A	57,816
Atlanta 21,	Green Bay 23	A	54,647
Atlanta 14,	LA Rams 26	A	52,182
Atlanta 16,	New England 15	H	39,697
Atlanta 20,	Phoenix 34	A	33,894
Atlanta 13,	New Orleans 20	A	65,153
Atlanta 30,	Buffalo 28	H	45,267
Atlanta 3,	San Francisco 45	A	59,914
Atlanta 17,	New Orleans 26	H	53,173
Atlanta 7,	NY Jets 27	A	40,429
Atlanta 10,	San Francisco 23	H	43,128
Atlanta 17,	Minnesota 43	A	58,116
Atlanta 30,	Washington 31	H	37,501
Atlanta 24,	Detroit 31	H	7,792

CHICAGO BEARS

Chicago 17,	Cincinnati 14	H	64,730
Chicago 38,	Minnesota 7	H	66,475
Chicago 47,	Detroit 27	A	71,418
Chicago 27,	Philadelphia 13	H	66,625
Chicago 35,	Tampa Bay 42	A	72,077
Chicago 28,	Houston 33	H	64,383
Chicago 7,	Cleveland 27	A	76,722
Chicago 20,	LA Rams 10	H	65,506
Chicago 13,	Green Bay 14	A	56,556
Chicago 20,	Pittsburgh 0	A	56,505
Chicago 31,	Tampa Bay 32	H	63,826
Chicago 14,	Washington 38	A	50,044
Chicago 16,	Minnesota 27	A	60,664
Chicago 17,	Detroit 27	H	52,650
Chicago 28	Green Bay 40	H	44,781
Chicago 0,	San Francisco 26	A	60,207

DALLAS COWBOYS

Dallas 0,	New Orleans 28	A	66,977
Dallas 21,	Atlanta 27	A	55,285
Dallas 7,	Washington 30	H	63,200
Dallas 13,	NY Giants 30	H	51,785
Dallas 13,	Green Bay 31	A	56,656
Dallas 14,	San Francisco 31	H	61,077
Dallas 28,	Kansas City 36	A	76,841
Dallas 10,	Phoenix 19	H	44,431
Dallas 13,	Washington 3	A	53,187
Dallas 20,	Phoenix 24	A	49,657
Dallas 14,	Miami 17	H	56,044
Dallas 0,	Philadelphia 27	H	54,444
Dallas 31,	LA Rams 35	H	49,647
Dallas 10,	Philadelphia 20	A	59,842
Dallas 0,	NY Giants 15	A	72,141
Dallas 10,	Green Bay 20	H	41,265

DETROIT LIONS

Detroit 13,	Phoenix 16	H	36,735
Detroit 14,	NY Giants 24	A	76,021
Detroit 27,	Chicago 47	H	71,418
Detroit 3,	Pittsburgh 23	H	43,804
Detroit 17,	Minnesota 24	A	55,380
Detroit 17,	Tampa Bay 16	A	46,225
Detroit 7,	Minnesota 20	H	51,579
Detroit 20,	Green Bay 23	A	53,731 (OT)
Detroit 31,	Houston 35	A	48,056
Detroit 31,	Green Bay 22	H	44,324
Detroit 7,	Cincinnati 42	A	55,720
Detroit 13,	Cleveland 10	H	65,624
Detroit 21,	New Orleans 14	H	38,550
Detroit 27,	Chicago 17	A	52,650
Detroit 33,	Tampa Bay 7	H	40,362
Detroit 31,	Atlanta 24	A	7,792

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Green Bay 21,	Tampa Bay 23	H	55,650
Green Bay 35,	New Orleans 34	H	55,809
Green Bay 38,	LA Rams 41	A	57,701
Green Bay 23,	Atlanta 21	H	54,647
Green Bay 31,	Dallas 13	H	56,656
Green Bay 14,	Minnesota 26	A	62,075
Green Bay 20,	Miami 23	A	56,624
Green Bay 23,	Detroit 20	H	53,731 (OT)
Green Bay 14,	Chicago 13	H	56,556
Green Bay 22,	Detroit 31	A	44,324
Green Bay 21,	San Francisco 17	A	62,219
Green Bay 20,	Minnesota 19	H	55,592
Green Bay 17,	Tampa Bay 16	A	58,120
Green Bay 3,	Kansas City 21	H	56,694
Green Bay 40,	Chicago 28	A	44,781
Green Bay 20,	Dallas 10	A	41,265

LOS ANGELES RAMS

LA Rams 31,	Atlanta 21	A	38,708
LA Rams 31,	Indianapolis 17	H	63,995
LA Rams 41,	Green Bay 38	H	57,701
LA Rams 13,	San Francisco 12	A	64,250
LA Rams 26,	Atlanta 14	H	52,182
LA Rams 20,	Buffalo 23	A	76,231
LA Rams 21,	New Orleans 40	H	57,567
LA Rams 10,	Chicago 20	A	65,506
LA Rams 21,	Minnesota 23	A	59,600 (OT)
LA Rams 31,	NY Giants 10	H	65,127
LA Rams 37,	Phoenix 14	H	53,176
LA Rams 20,	New Orleans 17	A	64,274 (OT)
LA Rams 35,	Dallas 31	A	49,647
LA Rams 27,	San Francisco 30	H	67,959
LA Rams 38,	NY Jets 14	H	53,063
LA Rams 24,	New England 20	A	37,940

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Minnesota 38,	Houston 7	H	54,015
Minnesota 7,	Chicago 38	A	66,475
Minnesota 14,	Pittsburgh 27	A	50,744
Minnesota 17,	Tampa Bay 3	H	54,817
Minnesota 24,	Detroit 17	H	55,380
Minnesota 26,	Green Bay 14	H	62,075
Minnesota 20,	Detroit 7	A	51,579
Minnesota 14,	NY Giants 24	A	76,041
Minnesota 23,	LA Rams 21	H	59,600 (OT)
Minnesota 24,	Tampa Bay 10	A	56,271
Minnesota 9,	Philadelphia 10	A	65,944
Minnesota 19,	Green Bay 20	A	55,592
Minnesota 27,	Chicago 16	H	60,664
Minnesota 43,	Atlanta 17	H	58,116
Minnesota 17,	Cleveland 23	A	70,777 (OT)
Minnesota 29,	Cincinnati 21	H	58,829

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

New Orleans 28,	Dallas 0	H	66,977
New Orleans 34,	Green Bay 35	A	55,809
New Orleans 10,	Tampa Bay 20	A	44,053
New Orleans 14,	Washington 16	H	64,358
New Orleans 20,	San Francisco 24	H	60,488
New Orleans 29,	NY Jets 14	H	59,521
New Orleans 40,	LA Rams 21	A	57,567
New Orleans 20,	Atlanta 13	H	65,153
New Orleans 13,	San Francisco 31	A	60,667
New Orleans 28,	New England 24	A	47,680
New Orleans 26,	Atlanta 17	A	53,173
New Orleans 17,	LA Rams 20	H	64,274(OT)
New Orleans 14,	Detroit 21	A	38,550
New Orleans 22,	Buffalo 19	A	70,037
New Orleans 30,	Philadelphia 20	H	59,218
New Orleans 41,	Indianapolis 6	H	49,009

NEW YORK GIANTS

New York 27,	Washington 24	A	54,160
New York 24,	Detroit 14	H	76,021
New York 35,	Phoenix 7	H	75,742
New York 30,	Dallas 13	A	51,785
New York 19,	Philadelphia 21	A	65,688
New York 20,	Washington 17	H	76,245
New York 20,	San Diego 13	A	48,566
New York 24,	Minnesota 14	H	76,041
New York 20,	Phoenix 13	A	46,588
New York 10,	LA Rams 31	A	65,127
New York 15,	Seattle 3	H	75,014
New York 24,	San Francisco 34	A	63,461
New York 17,	Philadelphia 24	H	74,809
New York 14,	Denver 7	A	63,283
New York 15,	Dallas 0	H	72,141
New York 34,	LA Raiders 17	H	70,306

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Philadelphia 31,	Seattle 7	H	64,287
Philadelphia 42,	Washington 37	A	53,493
Philadelphia 28,	San Francisco 38	H	66,042
Philadelphia 13,	Chicago 27	A	66,625
Philadelphia 21,	NY Giants 19	H	65,688
Philadelphia 17,	Phoenix 5	A	42,620
Philadelphia 10,	LA Raiders 7	H	64,019
Philadelphia 28,	Denver 24	A	75,065
Philadelphia 17,	San Diego 20	A	47,019
Philadelphia 3,	Washington 10	H	65,443
Philadelphia 10,	Minnesota 9	H	65,944
Philadelphia 27,	Dallas 0	A	54,444
Philadelphia 24,	NY Giants 17	A	74,809
Philadelphia 20,	Dallas 10	H	59,842
Philadelphia 20,	New Orleans 30	A	59,218
Philadelphia 31,	Phoenix 14	H	43,287

PHOENIX CARDINALS

Phoenix 16,	Detroit 13	A	36,735
Phoenix 34,	Seattle 24	A	60,444
Phoenix 7,	NY Giants 35	A	75,742
Phoenix 13,	San Diego 24	H	44,201
Phoenix 28,	Washington 30	A	53,335
Phoenix 5,	Philadelphia 17	H	42,620
Phoenix 34,	Atlanta 20	H	33,894
Phoenix 19,	Dallas 10	A	44,431
Phoenix 13,	NY Giants 20	H	46,588
Phoenix 24,	Dallas 20	H	49,657
Phoenix 14,	LA Rams 37	A	53,176
Phoenix 13,	Tampa Bay 14	H	33,297
Phoenix 10,	Washington 29	H	38,870
Phoenix 14,	LA Raiders 16	A	41,785
Phoenix 0,	Denver 37	H	56,071
Phoenix 14,	Philadelphia 31	A	43,287

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

San Fran 30,	Indianapolis 24	A	60,111
San Fran 20,	Tampa Bay 16	A	64,087
San Fran 38,	Philadelphia 28	A	66,042
San Fran 12,	LA Rams 13	H	64,250
San Fran 24,	New Orleans 20	A	60,488
San Fran 31,	Dallas 14	A	61,077
San Fran 37,	New England 20	H	70,000
San Fran 23,	NY Jets 10	A	62,805
San Fran 31,	New Orleans 13	H	60,667
San Fran 45,	Atlanta 3	H	59,914
San Fran 17,	Green Bay 21	H	62,219
San Fran 34,	NY Giants 24	H	63,461
San Fran 23,	Atlanta 10	A	43,128
San Fran 30,	LA Rams 27	A	67,959
San Fran 21,	Buffalo 10	H	60,927
San Fran 26,	Chicago 0	H	60,207

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Tampa Bay 23,	Green Bay 21	A	55,650
Tampa Bay 16,	San Francisco 20	H	64,087
Tampa Bay 20,	New Orleans 10	H	44,053
Tampa Bay 3,	Minnesota 17	A	54,817
Tampa Bay 42,	Chicago 35	H	72,077
Tampa Bay 16,	Detroit 17	H	46,225
Tampa Bay 28,	Washington 32	A	53,862
Tampa Bay 23,	Cincinnati 56	A	57,225
Tampa Bay 31,	Cleveland 42	H	69,162
Tampa Bay 10,	Minnesota 24	H	56,271
Tampa Bay 32,	Chicago 31	A	63,826
Tampa Bay 14,	Phoenix 13	A	33,297
Tampa Bay 16,	Green Bay 17	H	58,120
Tampa Bay 17,	Houston 20	A	54,532
Tampa Bay 7,	Detroit 33	A	40,362
Tampa Bay 22,	Pittsburgh 31	H	29,690

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Washington 24,	NY Giants 27	H	54,160
Washington 37,	Philadelphia 42	H	53,493
Washington 30,	Dallas 7	A	63,200
Washington 16,	New Orleans 14	A	64,358
Washington 30,	Phoenix 28	H	53,335
Washington 17,	NY Giants 20	A	76,245
Washington 32,	Tampa Bay 28	H	53,862
Washington 24,	LA Raiders 37	A	52,781
Washington 3,	Dallas 13	H	53,187
Washington 10,	Philadelphia 3	A	65,443
Washington 10,	Denver 14	H	52,975
Washington 38,	Chicago 14	H	50,044
Washington 29,	Phoenix 10	A	38,870
Washington 26,	San Diego 21	H	47,693
Washington 31,	Atlanta 30	A	37,501
Washington 29,	Seattle 0	A	60,294

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BUFFALO BILLS

Buffalo 27,	Miami 24	A	54,541
Buffalo 14,	Denver 28	H	78,176
Buffalo 47,	Houston 41	A	57,278 (OT)
Buffalo 31,	New England 10	H	78,921
Buffalo 14,	Indianapolis 37	A	58,890
Buffalo 23,	LA Rams 20	H	76,231
Buffalo 34,	NY Jets 3	H	76,811
Buffalo 31,	Miami 17	H	80,208
Buffalo 28,	Atlanta 30	A	45,267
Buffalo 30,	Indianapolis 7	H	79,256
Buffalo 24,	New England 33	A	49,663
Buffalo 24,	Cincinnati 7	H	80,074
Buffalo 16,	Seattle 17	A	57,682
Buffalo 19,	New Orleans 22	H	70,037
Buffalo 10,	San Fran 21	A	60,927
Buffalo 37,	NY Jets 0	A	21,148

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Cincinnati 14,	Chicago 17	A	64,730
Cincinnati 41,	Pittsburgh 10	H	53,885
Cincinnati 31,	Cleveland 14	H	55,996
Cincinnati 21,	Kansas City 17	A	61,165
Cincinnati 26,	Pittsburgh 16	A	52,785
Cincinnati 13,	Miami 20	H	58,184
Cincinnati 12,	Indianapolis 23	H	53,643
Cincinnati 56,	Tampa Bay 23	H	57,225
Cincinnati 7,	LA Raiders 28	A	51,080
Cincinnati 24,	Houston 26	A	60,694
Cincinnati 42,	Detroit 7	H	55,720
Cincinnati 7,	Buffalo 34	A	80,074
Cincinnati 21,	Cleveland 0	A	76,236
Cincinnati 17,	Seattle 24	H	54,744
Cincinnati 61,	Houston 7	H	47,510
Cincinnati 21,	Minnesota 29	A	58,829

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Cleveland 51,	Pittsburgh 0	A	57,928
Cleveland 38,	NY Jets 24	H	73,516
Cleveland 14,	Cincinnati 21	A	55,996
Cleveland 16,	Denver 13	H	78,637
Cleveland 10,	Miami 13	A	58,444 (OT)
Cleveland 7,	Pittsburgh 17	H	78,840
Cleveland 27,	Chicago 7	H	78,722
Cleveland 28,	Houston 17	H	78,765
Cleveland 42,	Tampa Bay 31	A	69,162
Cleveland 17,	Seattle 7	A	58,978
Cleveland 10,	Kansas City 10	H	77,922 (OT)
Cleveland 10,	Detroit 13	A	65,624
Cleveland 0,	Cincinnati 21	H	76,236
Cleveland 17,	Indianapolis 23	A	58,550 (OT)
Cleveland 23,	Minnesota 17	H	70,777 (OT)
Cleveland 24,	Houston 20	A	58,852

DENVER BRONCOS

Denver 34,	Kansas City 20	H	74,284
Denver 28,	Buffalo 14	A	78,176
Denver 31,	LA Raiders 21	H	75,754
Denver 13,	Cleveland 16	A	78,637
Denver 16,	San Diego 10	H	75,222
Denver 14,	Indianapolis 3	H	74,680
Denver 24,	Seattle 21	A	62,353 (OT)
Denver 24,	Philadelphia 28	H	75,065
Denver 34,	Pittsburgh 7	H	74,739
Denver 16,	Kansas City 13	A	76,245
Denver 14,	Washington 10	A	52,975
Denver 41,	Seattle 14	H	75,117
Denver 13,	LA Raiders 16	A	87,560 (OT)
Denver 7,	NY Giants 14	H	63,283
Denver 37,	Phoenix 0	A	56,071
Denver 16,	San Diego 19	A	50,524

HOUSTON OILERS

Houston 7,	Minnesota 38	A	54,015
Houston 34,	San Diego 27	A	42,013
Houston 41,	Buffalo 47	H	57,278 (OT)
Houston 39,	Miami 7	H	53,326
Houston 13,	New England 23	A	59,828
Houston 33,	Chicago 28	A	64,383
Houston 27,	Pittsburgh 0	H	59,091
Houston 17,	Cleveland 28	A	78,765
Houston 35,	Detroit 31	H	48,056
Houston 26,	Cincinnati 24	H	60,694
Houston 23,	LA Raiders 7	H	59,198
Houston 0,	Kansas City 34	A	51,342
Houston 23,	Pittsburgh 16	A	40,541
Houston 20,	Tampa Bay 17	H	54,532
Houston 7,	Cincinnati 61	A	47,510
Houston 20,	Cleveland 24	H	58,852

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Indianapolis 24,	San Fran 30	H	60,111
Indianapolis 17,	LA Rams 31	A	63,995
Indianapolis 13,	Atlanta 9	H	57,816
Indianapolis 17,	NY Jets 10	A	65,542
Indianapolis 37,	Buffalo 14	H	58,890
Indianapolis 3,	Denver 14	A	74,680
Indianapolis 23,	Cincinnati 12	A	57,642
Indianapolis 20,	New England 23	H	59,356 (OT)
Indianapolis 13,	Miami 19	A	52,680
Indianapolis 7,	Buffalo 30	A	79,256
Indianapolis 27,	NY Jets 10	H	58,236
Indianapolis 10,	San Diego 6	H	58,822
Indianapolis 16,	New England 22	A	32,234
Indianapolis 23,	Cleveland 17	H	58,550 (OT)
Indianapolis 42,	Miami 13	H	55,665
Indianapolis 6,	New Orleans 41	A	49,009

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Kansas City 20,	Denver 34	A	74,284
Kansas City 24,	LA Raiders 19	H	71,241
Kansas City 6,	San Diego 21	A	40,128
Kansas City 17,	Cincinnati 21	H	61,165
Kansas City 20,	Seattle 16	A	60,715
Kansas City 14,	LA Raiders 20	A	40,453
Kansas City 35,	Dallas 28	H	76,841
Kansas City 17,	Pittsburgh 23	A	54,194
Kansas City 20,	Seattle 10	H	54,489
Kansas City 13,	Denver 16	H	76,245
Kansas City 10,	Cleveland 10	A	77,922 (OT)
Kansas City 34,	Houston 0	H	51,342
Kansas City 26,	Miami 21	H	54,610
Kansas City 21,	Green Bay 3	A	56,694
Kansas City 13,	San Diego 20	H	40,623
Kansas City 27,	Miami 24	A	43,612

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

LA Raiders 40,	San Diego 14	H	43,086
LA Raiders 19,	Kansas City 24	A	77,649
LA Raiders 21,	Denver 31	A	76,055
LA Raiders 20,	Seattle 24	H	48,002
LA Raiders 14,	NY Jets 7	A	76,891
LA Raiders 20,	Kansas City 14	H	44,131
LA Raiders 7,	Philadelphia 10	A	66,883
LA Raiders 37,	Washington 24	H	56,763
LA Raiders 28	Cincinnati 7	H	54,241
LA Raiders 12,	San Diego 14	A	62,257
LA Raiders 7,	Houston 23	A	61,824
LA Raiders 24,	New England 21	H	41,349
LA Raiders 16,	Denver 13	H	90,016 (OT)
LA Raiders 16	Phoenix 14	H	46,053
LA Raiders 17,	Seattle 23	A	64,632
LA Raiders 17,	NY Giants 34	A	77,073

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Miami 24,	Buffalo 27	H	54,541
Miami 24,	New England 10	A	57,043
Miami 33,	NY Jets 40	H	65,908
Miami 7,	Houston 39	A	53,326
Miami 13,	Cleveland 10	H	58,444 (OT)
Miami 20,	Cincinnati 13	A	58,184
Miami 23,	Green Bay 20	H	56,624
Miami 17,	Buffalo 31	A	80,208
Miami 19,	Indianapolis 13	H	52,680
Miami 31,	NY Jets 23	A	65,923
Miami 17,	Dallas 14	A	56,044
Miami 14,	Pittsburgh 34	H	59,936
Miami 21,	Kansas City 26	A	54,610
Miami 31,	New England 10	H	55,918
Miami 13,	Indianapolis 42	A	55,665
Miami 24,	Kansas City 27	H	43,612

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

New England 27,	NY Jets 24	A	64,541
New England 10,	Miami 24	H	57,043
New England 3,	Seattle 24	H	48,025
New England 10,	Buffalo 31	A	78,921
New England 23,	Houston 13	H	59,828
New England 15,	Atlanta 16	A	39,697
New England 20,	San Fran 37	A	70,000
New England 23,	Indianapolis 20	A	59,356 (OT)
New England 26,	NY Jets 27	H	53,366
New England 24,	New Orleans 28	H	47,680
New England 33,	Buffalo 24	H	49,663
New England 21,	LA Raiders	A	38,747
New England 22,	Indianapolis 16	H	32,234
New England 10,	Miami 31	A	55,918
New England 10,	Pittsburgh 28	A	26,594
New England 20,	LA Rams 24	H	27,940

NEW YORK JETS

NY Jets 24,	New England 27	H	64,541
NY Jets 24,	Cleveland 38	A	73,516
NY Jets 40,	Miami 33	A	65,908
NY Jets 10,	Indianapolis 17	H	65,542
NY Jets 7,	Raiders 14	H	68,040
NY Jets 14,	New Orleans 29	A	59,521
NY Jets 3,	Buffalo 34	A	76,811
NY Jets 10,	San Fran 23	H	62,805
NY Jets 27,	New England 26	A	53,366
NY Jets 23,	Miami 31	H	65,923
NY Jets 10,	Indianapolis 27	A	58,236
NY Jets 27,	Atlanta 7	H	40,429
NY Jets 20,	San Diego 17	A	38,954
NY Jets 0,	Pittsburgh 13	H	41,037
NY Jets 14,	Rams 38	A	53,063
NY Jets 0,	Buffalo 37	H	21,148

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Pittsburgh 0,	Cleveland 51	H	57,928
Pittsburgh 10,	Cincinnati 41	A	53,885
Pittsburgh 27,	Minnesota 14	H	50,744
Pittsburgh 23,	Detroit 3	A	43,804
Pittsburgh 16,	Cincinnati 26	H	52,785
Pittsburgh 17,	Cleveland 7	A	78,840
Pittsburgh 0,	Houston 27	A	59,091
Pittsburgh 23,	Kansas City 17	H	54,194
Pittsburgh 7,	Denver 34	A	74,739
Pittsburgh 0,	Chicago 20	H	56,505
Pittsburgh 20,	San Diego 17	H	44,203
Pittsburgh 34,	Miami 14	A	59,936
Pittsburgh 16,	Houston 23	H	40,541
Pittsburgh 13,	NY Jets 0	A	41,037
Pittsburgh 28,	New England 10	H	26,594
Pittsburgh 31,	Tampa Bay 22	A	26,690

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

San Diego 14,	LA Raiders 40	A	40,237
San Diego 27,	Houston 34	H	42,013
San Diego 21,	Kansas City 6	H	40,128
San Diego 24,	Phoenix 13	A	44,201
San Diego 10,	Denver 16	A	75,222
San Diego 16,	Seattle 17	H	50,079
San Diego 13,	NY Giants 20	H	48,566
San Diego 7,	Seattle 10	A	59,691
San Diego 20,	Philadelphia 17	H	47,019
San Diego 14,	LA Raiders 12	H	59,151
San Diego 17,	Pittsburgh 20	A	44,203
San Diego 6,	Indianapolis 10	A	58,822
San Diego 17,	NY Jets 20	H	38,954
San Diego 21,	Washington 26	A	47,693
San Diego 20,	Kansas City 13	A	40,623
San Diego 19,	Denver 16	H	50,524

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Seattle 7,	Philadelphia 31	A	64,287
Seattle 24,	Phoenix 34	H	60,444
Seattle 24,	New England 3	A	48,025
Seattle 24,	LA Raiders 20	A	44,319
Seattle 16,	Kansas City 20	H	60,715
Seattle 17,	San Diego 16	A	50,079
Seattle 21,	Denver 24	H	62,353 (OT)
Seattle 10,	San Diego 7	H	59,691
Seattle 10,	Kansas City 20	A	54,489
Seattle 7,	Cleveland 17	H	58,978
Seattle 3,	NY Giants 15	A	75,014
Seattle 14,	Denver 41	A	75,117
Seattle 17,	Buffalo 16	H	57,682
Seattle 24,	Cincinnati 17	A	54,744
Seattle 23,	LA Raiders 17	H	61,076
Seattle 0,	Washington 29	H	60,294

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❑ *continued from page 7.*

The Heisman hunt turned into a rallying cry for the Cougars, banned from a bowl game by NCAA probation. They won nine and lost two and helped their quarterback win the biggest prize of all.

Peter Lambos, president of the Downtown Athletic Club, made the official presentation to Ware at a black tie dinner. Lambos, who sat next to Ware during the dinner, said what impressed him most about the 55th Heisman Trophy winner was that he talked about what the University of Houston had done for Andre Ware, not what Ware had done for Houston. It represented another example of why Ware is so rare. Ware acted appropriately awed by New York City.

"It's exactly like TV," he said, looking out a window. "It's beautiful at night, the Statue of Liberty."

He said all the right things in his acceptance speech, even praising the people of New York.

It marked the beginning of a whirlwind adventure for Ware that never stopped. Everybody wanted a piece of Andre, to speak at their dinner, to ride in their parade, to sign autographs for the whole family. There was no escape.

Mitchell Dale, a car dealer in Ware's hometown of Dickinson, and a friend of the family for years, put it into perspective. "The reason he's been so busy is the type of individual Andre Ware is," said Dale. "Everybody wants him as a role model."

Ware displayed his true character the Saturday the Heisman was announced. Months before he had committed to speak at a little league football banquet at his high school in Dickinson, 25 miles down the Gulf Freeway. He refused to allow the most prestigious award in college football to change his itinerary.

Craig Veasey, a senior defensive end, rented a white limousine to transport Ware and a couple of Cougars around town that evening. Several hours after Houston thrashed Rice 64-0 and Ware completed an endless series of television interviews, the limo pulled away from darkened Rice Stadium, took the players back to their dorm for a quick change and then off to Dickinson.

"It's always a lot of fun to speak to those guys," said Ware.

Maybe Ware's most admirable quality is that he never forgot his home. One replica of the Heisman Trophy rests in the trophy room at the University of Houston, the other in a bank in Dickinson for all the town to see.

"He still comes by and checks on us," said Glenn McWhorter, the baseball coach at Dickinson and formerly an assistant in football.

When McWhorter suspended nine players from the baseball team one spring, leaving mostly freshmen and sophomores, he asked Ware to join the club. Andre pitched, played center field and ran the bases well enough to draw interest from pro scouts.

"He could throw it so hard, but he was wild," said McWhorter. "He was always throwing away from the batter, afraid he was going to hit him. Dub (Farris, the football coach) explained to him all those guys had school insurance."

Farris became an important influence on the fatherless Ware.

"I was tough on Andre when I had to be," said Farris, now athletic director for the Northside School District in San Antonio. "He took criticism well. He's a thoroughbred. He didn't put his head down.

"When we ran, he ran hard. When we worked, he worked harder than anyone else. He never missed a practice."

One replica of the Heisman Trophy rests in the trophy room at the University of Houston, the other in a bank in Dickinson for all the town to see.

Ware passed the ball to the new quarterback of Houston football, David Klingler, a 6-3 junior.

"I told Coach Jenkins I never would have left him stranded as far as leaving somebody to take over," said Ware. "David is more than capable. He's a great athlete who is going to do an outstanding job."

Jenkins concurred.

"I've got a tremendous amount of confidence in David," he said. "There were very few plays he made bad decisions on. He understands completely why I'm doing the things I am offensively and understands the next move the defense will likely make.

"He's in a position to surprise everybody in the country the way Andre did. In David's case, what you've got to be impressed with is that he was the No. 2 (rated) quarterback in the conference. He was only intercepted one time."

Klingler believes in the run-and-shoot offense, and in his ability to operate it. He would prefer to avoid the unavoidable comparison with Ware. "How can you top what he's done?" asked Klingler. "All the records he's set probably won't be broken for a long time — if ever."

True. Ware completed 63 percent of his passes last year for 4,699 yards and 46 touchdowns, breaking or tying 26 NCAA records. *Houston Post* columnist Dale Robertson renamed the Astrodome "The Warehouse."

Klingler seemed to get a good grasp on the offense during his years as an understudy.

"If you have a good offensive line and good receivers, it's really an easy job," he said, making advanced trigonometry sound as simple as long division. "Those guys are open. All you have to do is throw the ball."

Klingler played basketball well enough in high school that he nearly accepted a scholarship to Pittsburgh. He can punt with anyone on the Houston team and briefly played free safety in practice two years ago when the Cougars found themselves short in the secondary.

"I've got mixed emotions," Klingler said of Ware's decision. "I wanted to play more, sure, but Andre is one of my favorite guys and I hate to see him go."

The two quarterbacks developed a close enough friendship that Ware often photo copied Klingler's notes from their business classes when he returned from his many trips around the country.

"I think physically David is every bit as talented as Andre," said Jessup. "I know everybody's comfortable with him."

Klingler's arm seemed of little concern to his coaches or teammates. Replacing Andre Ware, the leader, may be more difficult.

"All the years of experience he had, you had to look up to Andre," said Jessup.

"For a while, we'll miss his leadership," added Weatherspoon. "We had a lot of leaders this team."

Hooper thought Ware's absence might make opponents take Houston a little less seriously.

"With Andre there, everybody would have been scared," he said. "Now they'll think the Cougars lost everything."

"Two years ago, everybody thought (receivers) Jason (Phillips) and James (Dixon) were the whole team," recalled Weatherspoon. "We have a lot of good players on this team."

However, there may not be another Heisman Trophy winner at Houston for a long, long time.❑

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